



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

December 5, 2022

Cassandra Wilson
4650 Rood Road
Norton Shores, MI 49441

RE: License #: DG610412378
Investigation #: 2023D1073001
Thinking Ahead Childcare

Dear Ms. Wilson:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received a complaint against your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The allegations were related to the following:

R400.1931(2)(c) Food preparation and service.

The details of the allegations are in the attached report. To investigate the allegations:

- I interviewed licensee, caregivers, witnesses, and others with relevant information.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 10/11/2022.

As a result of this investigation, I found the following violation(s):

R400.1931(2)(c) Food preparation and service.

I recommend no change to the current license status.

Due to the violations, you must send us a corrective action plan by 12/25/2022. You can use our [corrective action plan](#) form or create your own.

If you need help writing the corrective action plan, please contact me. If you do not send a corrective action plan, you may face disciplinary action. The corrective action plan must include the following:

- How compliance with each rule will be achieved.
- Who is directly responsible for implementing the corrective action for each violation.
- Specific time frames for each violation as to when the correction will be completed or implemented.

- How continuing compliance will be maintained once compliance is achieved.
- The signature of the responsible party and a date.

During this special investigation:	Yes	No
A rule or law violation was found and a serious injury or death occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A rule or law violation was found and abuse and/or neglect of a child occurred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook. This report and any related corrective action plans will be online for parents to review under the [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#).

Sincerely,



Tarah Kline, Licensing Consultant
 Child Care Licensing Bureau
 611 W. Ottawa Street
 P.O. Box 30664
 Lansing, MI 48909
 (616) 916-2490

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CHILD CARE LICENSING BUREAU
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DG610412378
Investigation #:	2023D1073001
Complaint Receipt Date:	10/06/2022
Investigation Initiation Date:	10/07/2022
Report Due Date:	12/05/2022
Licensee Name:	Cassandra Wilson
Licensee Address:	4650 Rood Road Norton Shores, MI 49441
Licensee Telephone #:	(231) 329-6222
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	
Name of Facility:	Thinking Ahead Childcare
Facility Address:	4650 Rood Road Norton Shores, MI 49441
Facility Telephone #:	(231) 329-6222
Original Issuance Date:	06/09/2022
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	12/09/2022
Expiration Date:	12/08/2024
Capacity:	12
Program Type:	CHILD CARE GROUP HOME (CAPACITY 7-12)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
Child A (female, age 2) was served popcorn	Yes

III. METHODOLOGY

10/06/2022	Special Investigation Intake 2023D1073001
10/07/2022	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Spoke licensing consultant, Kortney Williams
10/11/2022	Inspection Completed On-site Spoke with licensee Cassandra Wilson and child care staff member, Caleb Bush
10/21/2022	Contact-Document Sent Sent text to Ms. Wilson
12/05/2022	Exit Conference Spoke with Ms. Wilson
12/05/2022	Inspection Completed-BCAL Sub. Compliance

ALLEGATION: Child A (female, age 2) was served popcorn in child care.

INVESTIGATION: I spoke with licensing consultant Kortney Williams on 10/07/2022 in reference to the recent allegations against child care provider Cassandra Wilson. Ms. Williams is the licensing consultant assigned to Ms. Wilson and had recently received an email from her that referenced a parent being upset about her daughter being served popcorn. Ms. Williams indicated that she would forward me the email. Ms. Williams had no concerns with the child care provider and stated that she asks questions on any rules she doesn't understand and goes above and beyond to be in compliance.

I reviewed the email Ms. Williams forwarded from Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson had documented all text exchanges with Child A's Mother and with her food program consultant as well.

I completed an onsite inspection at the child care home on 10/11/2022. Ms. Wilson and her child care staff member were caring for five child care children. The home was free and clear of any hazards.

I explained to Ms. Wilson that I had received a complaint that she had served popcorn to Child A (female, age 2) on several occasions. Ms. Wilson explained that she participates in the food program through Vibrant Futures and one of the options for whole grain is popcorn. Ms. Wilson stated that they do not serve it often but if they do a movie and popcorn activity, they will give it to the children in care. Ms. Wilson completes daily sheets for all children in care that documents the foods served and Child A's Mother was made aware with these sheets that Child A had popcorn on 7/21/22, 7/26/22, 9/30/22, and 10/4/2022. Prior to 10/4/22 Child A's Mother never indicated having a concern about Child A having the popcorn.

Ms. Wilson stated that her understanding of the licensing rule was that if a food such as popcorn, grapes, or hot dogs were served to children under 3 years of age that they must be cut up into very small pieces. Ms. Wilson offered to show me how she breaks down the popcorn into small pieces to make sure there is no way that the children under three years of age could choke on any part of the popcorn. I explained that it was not necessary for her to demonstrate as she verbally described the act of breaking down the popcorn with enough description that I was able to understand.

Ms. Wilson showed me correspondence she had with her food program consultant regarding serving popcorn to children under the age of three. Barbara, the consultant from Vibrant Futures, explained in her email that if Ms. Wilson was serving the popcorn in a developmentally appropriate way, then there was no issue in serving this according to their program.

I explained to Ms. Wilson that the licensing rule states "Children under 3 years of age shall not be served or allowed to eat foods that could easily cause choking including, but not limited to, popcorn and uncut round foods such as grapes, seeds, nuts, hard candy, and hot dogs." Since it lists popcorn prior to "uncut" I wanted to clarify with supervision that even if the popcorn is cut up it cannot be served. Ms. Wilson stated that she would not serve popcorn as a whole grain until she heard back from licensing.

I texted Ms. Wilson on 10/21/2022 letting her know that because the rule specifically states popcorn cannot be serviced with no indication of being able to cut it up that it cannot be served to children under the age of 3. Ms. Wilson responded thanking licensing for this information and would forgo serving popcorn in the child care.

I spoke with Ms. Wilson on 12/5/2022 letting her know that I would be sending her report in the next day or two requesting a written corrective action plan stating she will not be serving popcorn to children under the age of three. She stated that she would look for it and get the written documentation in as soon as she received it.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1931	Food preparation and service.
	(2) A licensee shall ensure that food is prepared, served, and stored in a safe and sanitary manner by meeting all of the following requirements: (c) Children under 3 years of age shall not be served or allowed to eat foods that could easily cause choking including, but not limited to, popcorn and uncut round foods such as grapes, seeds, nuts, hard candy, and hot dogs.
ANALYSIS:	Ms. Wilson served popcorn to Child A on four occasions. Ms. Wilson broke the popcorn into very small pieces as she believed the rule allowed for it to be served this way, after receiving clarification from the department Ms. Wilson understands that she cannot serve popcorn of any sort to children under three years of age.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

After receipt of an acceptable corrective action plan, I recommend no change in license status.



12/5/2022

Tarah Kline
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



12/5/2022

Candice Case-French
Area Manager

Date

