



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

October 17, 2023

Melissa Myers-Bates
9975 Winegar Road
Laingsburg, MI 48848

RE: License #: DG780381154
Investigation #: 2023D0895022
Melissa Myers-Bates

Dear Ms. Myers-Bates:

I conducted a special investigation because the child care licensing division received information regarding your facility that related to licensing rules or law. The information was related to the following:

- R400.1908(1) Capacity.
- R400.1915(1) Indoor space; play equipment and materials.
- R400.1916(13)(c) Bedding and sleeping equipment.
- R400.1931(1)(a) Food preparation and service.
- R400.1932(1) Home maintenance and safety.

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

- I interviewed the licensee, child care staff member, witnesses, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: August 21, 2023 and October 12, 2023.

As a result of this investigation, I recommend no change to the current license status. I did not find any violations. The special investigation report is attached.

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](#).

Please review the enclosed documentation for accuracy and contact me with any questions. In the event that I am not available and you need to speak to someone immediately, please contact the local office at (517) 284-9730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thanh C. Biehl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Thanh Biehl, Licensing Consultant
Child Care Licensing Bureau
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30837
Lansing, MI 48909
(734) 417-8580

Enclosure

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

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DG780381154
Investigation #:	2023D0895022
Complaint Receipt Date:	08/17/2023
Investigation Initiation Date:	08/21/2023
Report Due Date:	10/16/2023
Licensee Name:	Melissa Myers-Bates
Licensee Address:	9975 Winegar Road Laingsburg, MI 48848
Licensee Telephone #:	Unknown
Administrator:	N/A
Licensee Designee:	N/A
Name of Facility:	Melissa Myers-Bates
Facility Address:	9975 Winegar Road Laingsburg, MI 48848
Facility Telephone #:	(517) 980-3649
Original Issuance Date:	03/18/2016
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	09/18/2022
Expiration Date:	09/17/2024
Capacity:	14
Program Type:	CHILD CARE GROUP HOME (CAPACITY 7-12)

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
The child care home is over the maximum capacity by five or six children during the summer.	No
The child care home is not big enough for all the children. The children are limited to the living room.	No
Infants are allowed to sleep in the swings.	No
The provider isn't serving enough food. The children are going home hungry.	No
The child care home is extremely unsanitary and cluttered.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

08/17/2023	Special Investigation Intake 2023D0895022
08/21/2023	Special Investigation Initiated - On Site (On-site 11:50 AM-12:20 PM) Interviewed Ms. Melissa Myers-Bates, child care staff members (CCSM), CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer, separately.
08/21/2023	Contact - Document Received Attendance records, menus, and child information cards.
09/19/2023	Contact - Document Sent Email sent to provider; requested letters from relatives.
09/19/2023	Contact - Document Received Letters from relatives.
10/12/2023	Inspection completed (On-site 10:20 am to 12:45 pm) Interviewed Ms. Myers-Bates and CCSM 1. Supervised Volunteer was present during the inspection.
10/12/2023	Contact- Documents Received Attendance records, menus, child information cards and Child U's Father's letter.

10/12/2023	Contact- Telephone call made Child A and Child M's Mother, Child B's Mother, Child C and Child O's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, Child R, Child T and Child W's Mother, Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother.
10/12/2023	Contact- Telephone received Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother.
10/13/2023	Contact- Telephone call made Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother.
10/13/2023	Exit Conference T/C with Ms. Myers-Bates.

ALLEGATION: The child care home is over the maximum capacity by five or six children during the summer.

INVESTIGATION: On August 18, 2023, I reviewed Ms. Melissa Myers-Bates' file. I reviewed a variance request dated June 29, 2022. The variance requested an increase in ratio and capacity from 12 unrelated children to 14 unrelated children.

On August 21, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I interviewed Ms. Melissa Myers- Bates, child care staff members (CCSM) 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer, separately.

Upon my arrival, I observed children outside on the playground as well as inside the house. There was a total of 22 children, two child care staff members (CCSM), Supervised Volunteer, Minor Household Member (MHM) 1, MHM 2, MHM 3, and Ms. Myers-Bates.

I interviewed Ms. Myers-Bates who said she spoke with child care licensing consultant, Ms. Angela Histed. She confirmed with Ms. Histed that she could have related children in her care, and that they would not count towards her capacity or ratio if they were older than six years old. Ms. Myers-Bates admitted that there were a lot of children at the child care home, but she denies being over capacity. Many of the children in her care are related children; they are her cousins, nieces, or nephews. Ms. Myers-Bates said it is a small community and that her family never left the area.

Ms. Myers-Bates said the following are not related children:

Child A (female, 4 years 7 months old)

Child B (male, 5 years 11 months old)
Child C (male, 6 years 1 month old)
Child D (female, 6 years 6 months old)
Child E (male, 8 years 1 month old)
Child F (female, 4 years 8 months old)
Child G (male, 4 years old)
Child H (male, 3 years 9 months old)
Child I (female, 3 years 5 months old)
Child J (male, 3 years 2 months old)
Child K (male, 2 years 11 months old)
Child L (female, 2 years 9 months old)
Child M (female, 2 years 8 months old)
Child N (female, 1 year 2 months old)
Child O (male, 9 months old)
Child P (female, 2 months old)

Ms. Myers-Bates said the following are related children:

Child Q (male, 4 years 7 months old)
Child R (male, 4 years 4 months old)
Child S (female, 2 years 4 months old)
Child T (male, 1 year 11 months old)
Child U (female, 4 years 10 months old)
Child V (male, 8 years 10 months old)
Child W (female, 11 years 8 months old)
Child Y (female, 8 years 6 months old)
Child Z (female, 6 years 9 months old)
Child A1 (male, 7 years 2 months old)

Please note, Ms. Myers-Bates indicated that Child X (female, 7 years 2 months old) was a related child. However, during the on-site inspection on October 12, 2023, Ms. Myers-Bates said she was mistaken and that she was not related to Child X.

Ms. Myers-Bates said during the summer months, CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 work full time, Monday through Friday. There are always enough child care staff members present at the child care home.

During the inspection, I inspected the two bedrooms on the main level and one bedroom on the second level of the home. On the main level, in the first bedroom, Child I, Child J, and Child M were all sleeping in pack 'n plays. In the master bedroom, also on the main level, Child S was sleeping in a pack 'n play. On the second level of the home, Child F (female, 4 years 8 months old), Child K (male, 2 years 11 months old), Child L (female, 2 years 9 months old), and Child R (male, 4

years 4 months old) were sleeping on cots and mats. Child P was in the pack 'n play in the living room.

I interviewed CCSM 1 who said she didn't know how many children were present today. There are usually 14 to 16 children at the child care home, including related children.

CCSM 2 said there were 8 children sleeping inside the house. She believes there might be a total of 19 children, but she isn't certain.

CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 both said they work Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. They didn't have any concerns, and both said there are always enough child care staff members present with the children.

I interviewed the Supervised Volunteer who said she visits the child care home when she has spare time. She's not at the child care home often enough to know how many children are enrolled. However, when she is present at the home, there are usually about 15 children.

During the inspection, I obtained copies of the attendance records, menus, and child information cards. I reviewed the daily attendance records dated August 21, 2023, and observed the following:

Not related:

Child A (female, 4 years 7 months old) arrived at 8:30
Child C (male, 6 years 1 month old) arrived at 8:30 am
Child D (female, 6 years 6 months old) arrived at 7:30 am
Child E (male, 8 years 1 month old) arrived at 8:00 am
Child F (female, 4 years 8 months old) arrived at 7:30 am
Child I (female, 3 years 5 months old) arrived at 7:15 am
Child K (male, 2 years 11 months old) arrived at 7:30 am
Child L (female, 2 years 9 months old) arrived at 7:30 am
Child J (male, 3 years 2 months old) arrived at 7:00 am
Child M (female, 2 years 8 months old) arrived at 9:00 am
Child O (male, 9 months old) arrived at 8:00 am
Child P (female, 2 months old) arrived at 7:30 am

Related:

Child Q (male, 4 years 7 months old) arrived at 8:00 am
Child R (male, 4 years 4 months old) arrived at 7:15 am
Child S (female, 2 years 4 months old) arrived at 8:00 am
Child T (male, 1 year 11 months old) arrived at 7:15 am
Child U (female, 4 years 10 months old) arrived at 11:00 am
Child V (male, 8 years 10 months old) arrived at 8:00 am

Child W (female, 11 years 8 months old) arrived at 7:15 am
Child Y (female, 8 years 6 months old) arrived at 7:00 am
Child Z (female, 6 years 9 months old) arrived at 7:00 am
Child A1 (male, 7 years 2 months old) arrived at 8:00 am

I noted the following:

- There was a total of 22 children present on August 21, 2023.
- There were 12 non-related children: Child A, Child C, Child D, Child E, Child F, Child I, Child K, Child L, Child J, Child M, Child O, and Child P.
- There are 10 related children: Child Q, Child R, Child S, Child T, Child U, Child V, Child W, Child Y, Child Z, and Child A1.
- Five related children are counted in ratio: Child Q, Child R, Child S, Child T, and Child U.
- The 10 related children are not counted in the capacity.
- The 12 non-related children are counted in the capacity.
- There was a total of 17 children counted towards ratio. Five of the seventeen children are related children (Child Q, Child R, Child S, Child T, and Child U). The child care home is in ratio with 3 child care staff members and 17 children.
- There are 7 children (Child K, Child L, Child M, Child O, Child P, Child S and Child T) under 30 months old. Two of the seven children (Child O and Child P) are under 18 months old. The child care home is in ratio with 3 child care staff members with 7 children under 30 months.

On September 19, 2023, I sent an email to Ms. Myers-Bates. I requested letters from the related-children's parents.

On September 19, 2023, I received letters from Child C1, Child D1 and Child E1's Mother, Child R, Child T and Child W's Mother, Child V's Mother, and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother.

- Child C1, Child D1 and Child E1's Mother indicated that Ms. Myers-Bates is her cousin.
- Child R, Child T and Child W's Mother indicated that Child R, Child T and Child W are Ms. Myers-Bates' nieces and nephews.
- Child V's Mother indicated that Ms. Meyers-Bates' is her cousin on her mother's side of the family.
- Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother indicated that Child Q, Child S and Child A1 are Ms. Myers-Bates' cousins on their father's side of the family.

On October 12, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. Upon my arrival, I observed eight children, Ms. Myers-Bates, CCSM 1, and the Supervised Volunteer.

I interviewed Ms. Myers-Bates who said there were eight children present at the child care home. One of the eight children (Child S) was a related child. Ms. Myers-

Bates said there are fewer school age children during the school year. She only has one or two school age children that come to the child care home after school.

Ms. Myers-Bates said Child C1 (female, 15 years old), Child D1 (male, 3 months old) and Child E1 (male, 3 months old) recently started care in September 2023. Child C1, Child D1 and Child E1's Mother is her cousin; a letter was submitted to the department on September 19, 2023.

I obtained a copy of the attendance records dated October 12, 2023. I observed the following:

- Child F arrived at 7:30 am (not related)
- Child P arrived at 7:30 am (not related)
- Child G arrived at 9:00 am (not related)
- Child K arrived at 7:30 am (not related)
- Child S arrived at 8:00 am (related)
- Child H arrived at 9:00 am (not related)
- Child N arrived at 9:00 am (not related)
- Child B1 (female, 1 year 9 months old) arrived at 9:00 am (not related)

During the inspection, I received a copy of a letter from Child U's Father. The letter stated that Child U's Father is Ms. Myers-Bates' cousin.

On October 12, 2023, I called and spoke with Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother. I left messages for Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother. I attempted telephone calls for Child A and Child M's Mother, but the phone number was invalid, Child C and Child O's

Mother's mailbox was not setup, and Child R, Child T and Child W's Mother's mailbox was full.

Child B's Mother and Child D and Child L's Mother both said there are always two to four child care staff members present with the children.

Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother all said they did not have any concerns regarding ratio or capacity.

On October 12, 2023, Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother both called and left messages.

On October 13, 2023, I called and spoke with Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother.

Child V's Mother said Ms. Meyers-Bates' is her cousin on her mother's side of the family.

Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother said Child Q, Child S and Child A1 are Ms. Myers-Bates' cousins on their father's side of the family. Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother said the children enjoy going to Ms. Myers- Bates' child care. It is a "wonderful environment" and "the children are very loved."

Child Y and Child Z's Mother said her dad and Ms. Myers-Bates' mother are second cousins. Child Y and Child Z's Mother said she loves Ms. Myers-Bates' child care and does not have any issues or concerns.

Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother all said they did not have any concerns regarding the capacity or ratio. Child Y and Child Z's Mother said there are always two to three child care staff members present with the children.

On October 13, 2023, I called and completed an exit telephone conference with Ms. Myers-Bates.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1908	Capacity.
	(1) The licensee shall ensure that the actual number of unrelated children in care at any 1 time does not exceed the number of children for which the child care home is licensed, not more than 6 children for a family child care home and not more than 12 children for a group child care home.
ANALYSIS:	<p>The child care home was not out of capacity on August 21, 2023 or October 12, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 21, 2023, I observed 22 children with Ms. Myers-Bates, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and the Supervised Volunteer. The 10 related children are not counted in the capacity. The 12 non-related children are counted in the capacity. • On October 12, 2023, I observed eight children with Ms. Myers-Bates, CCSM 1, and the Supervised Volunteer. One of the eight children (Child S) was a related child.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: The child care home is not big enough for all the children. The children are limited to the living room.

INVESTIGATION: On August 18, 2023, I reviewed Ms. Myers-Bates' file. According to the original report, Ms. Myers-Bates is approved to use the two bedrooms located on the second level, two bedrooms on the main level, living room, kitchen, front entry, and bathroom.

On August 21, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I interviewed Ms. Myers- Bates, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer, separately.

During the inspection, I observed 22 children. Eight children (Child F, Child I, Child J, Child K, Child L, Child M, Child R, and Child S) were sleeping in the two bedrooms on the main level, and one bedroom on the second level of the home. Child P was in

a pack 'n play in the living room. The remaining thirteen children were playing outside on the playground.

The approved spaces in the child care home accommodates the capacity of 14 children.

Ms. Myers- Bates said she uses the two bedrooms on the main level for napping, as well as one bedroom on the second floor. The bedroom upstairs is also used as a play area for the children. Ms. Myers- Bates said napping is an option for the older children who are school-age. She said none of the school-agers take naps.

Ms. Myers- Bates said she believes in outdoor play. After breakfast, all the children are outside on the playground. They are outside all day including lunch time. When it rains, they wear the appropriate rain gear to remain outside. The younger children go inside for naptime.

I interviewed CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and the Supervised Volunteer, separately.

CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 both said there are two play areas in the child care home, the living room and MHM 3's bedroom. The bedroom upstairs, the two bedrooms on the main level, and the living room are also used for napping. CCSM 2 said the school-agers do not take naps and that it's optional.

CCSM 1 and the Supervised Volunteer both said they have never seen all the children in one room.

CCSM 2 said in the mornings, they eat breakfast in the kitchen and living room. Afterwards, around 8:00 am, they go outside and stay all day outdoors. CCSM 2 said they eat outside as well.

On October 12, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I observed eight children in the living room with Ms. Myers-Bates, CCSM 1 and the Supervised Volunteer. The children were playing with dolls and trucks. When it was time to transition to lunch time, Ms. Myers-Bates put on music videos and the children danced. The children washed their hands and ate in the kitchen.

I observed Child G and Child H leave after lunch time to attend an enrichment preschool program. Ms. Myers-Bates stated that Child G and Child H will return at 2:30 pm. I reminded Ms. Myers-Bates to sign both children out on the attendance records. Child G and Child H should be signed in once they return to the child care home.

After lunch, Ms. Myers-Bates read books and the children transitioned to naptime.

During the inspection, I spoke with CCSM 1. CCSM 1 said it was cold outside, so they decided to eat lunch inside the house. During summer, all the children (related

and unrelated) are outside on the playground. The younger children go inside for naptime and the school-agers stays outside. During the school year, there are no school-agers so there are less children. Depending on the weather, they may eat inside the house.

Ms. Myers-Bates and I walked outside and she showed me the new patio pergola located on the deck. Ms. Myers-Bates said her father was in the process of installing it. The pergola will have a covered top as well as sides to protect the children from the weather. Ms. Myers-Bates was excited and said it will allow the children to stay outside in even bad weather.

On October 12, 2023, I called and spoke with Child B’s Mother, Child D and Child L’s Mother, and Child F and Child P’s Mother. I left messages with Child V’s Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1’s Mother.

Child B’s Mother, Child D and Child L’s Mother, and Child F and Child P’s Mother all had no concerns regarding the space, and they believed there was enough space in the child care home.

Child D and Child L’s Mother said the house is small, but the space is open and “welcoming.”

Child F and Child P’s Mother said she has seen children playing inside the house as well as outside on the playground.

On October 12, 2023, Child V’s Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1’s Mother both called and left messages.

On October 13, 2023, I called and spoke with Child V’s Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1’s Mother, and Child Y and Child Z’s Mother. None of them had any issues or concerns with the space used by the children.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1915	Indoor space; play equipment and materials.
	(1) A child care home shall provide not less than 35 square feet per child of safe, usable, accessible indoor floor space, not including bathrooms and storage areas.

ANALYSIS:	<p>The child care home is approved to use the two bedrooms located on the second level, two bedrooms on the main level, living room, kitchen, and front entry.</p> <p>The approved spaces accommodate the capacity of 14 children.</p>
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: Infants are allowed to sleep in the swings.

INVESTIGATION: On August 21, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I interviewed Ms. Myers- Bates, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer, separately.

Upon my arrival, I inspected the two bedrooms on the main level and one bedroom on the second level of the home. On the main level, in the first bedroom, Child I, Child J, and Child M were all sleeping in pack ‘n plays. In the master bedroom, also on the main level, Child S was sleeping in a pack ‘n play. On the second level of the home, Child F, Child K, Child L, and Child R were sleeping on cots and mats. Child P was in the pack ‘n play in the living room.

I observed an infant swing and rocker in the living room. During the inspection, I did not observe any children in the swing or rocker.

Ms. Myers- Bates said she received grant funds and recently purchased new pack ‘n plays. She denied that any of the sleeping infants are placed in the swings.

Ms. Myers-Bates and CCSM 1 both said when an infant falls asleep in the swings, they immediately move the child to the pack ‘n play.

CCSM 2 said she has seen an infant fall asleep in the swings. However, the child was immediately picked up and placed in a pack ‘n play. CCSM 2 said all the children have their own pack ‘n plays or cots. CCSM 2 said Child P and Child O sleeps in their own pack ‘n plays in the living room or in the master bedroom.

The Supervised Volunteer said she has never seen a child fall asleep in the swings when she’s at the child care home.

On October 12, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. Upon my arrival, I observed seven children in the living room and one child (Child P) in the bedroom with Ms. Myers-Bates, CCSM 1 and the Supervised Volunteer. Child P was sleeping in the pack ‘n play. During the inspection, CCSM 1 went to the bedroom

and got Child P. Child P was the youngest child present during the inspection. Child P either played in the pack 'n play or she was held by CCSM 1.

When it was lunch time, the children ate in the kitchen. I observed CCSM 1 holding Child P with her bottle on the couch. After lunch, the children came to the carpet for story time and Child P was placed in the swing. After ten minutes, CCSM 1 picked up Child P and placed her in the pack 'n play where she fell asleep.

On October 12, 2023, I called and spoke with Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother. I left messages with Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother.

Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother all said they've never seen any infants sleeping in the swings. Child F and Child P's Mother said when she picks up Child P at the end of the day, there is always someone with her.

On October 12, 2023, Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother both called and left messages.

On October 13, 2023, I called and spoke with Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother. None of them had any issues or concerns.

Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother all said they have never observed any infants sleeping in the swings. Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother said her children have been attending Ms. Myers-Bates' child care their entire lives and there has never been any issues.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1916	Bedding and sleeping equipment.
	(13) None of the following are approved sleeping equipment for children 24 months of age or younger: (c) Infant swings.

ANALYSIS:	<p>On August 21, 2023, and October 12, 2023, none of the children 24 months of age or younger were observed sleeping in the swings.</p> <p>None of the child care staff members have allowed infants to sleep in swings, and none of the parents have seen infants sleep in a swing.</p>
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: The provider isn't serving enough food. The children are going home hungry.

INVESTIGATION: On August 21, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I interviewed Ms. Myers- Bates, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer, separately.

Upon my arrival, I observed children outside on the playground as well as inside the house. The children had already eaten lunch. I did not observe meal time.

Ms. Myers- Bates said she participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). She provides, breakfast, lunch, morning, and afternoon snacks. The menu is posted and sent home to the families. If a child has any allergies, she accommodates and substitutes, if needed. She feels that the children are well-fed and denies that there isn't enough food.

Ms. Myers- Bates said Child D is a picky eater. She accommodates by giving her peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in lieu of the planned meals. Ms. Myers- Bates said she always tries to substitute food that she knows the child would like to eat.

Ms. Myers- Bates said today she prepared pasta, meatballs, green beans, and bananas. The younger children who are under 24 months old ate corn while the older children had carrot sticks.

During the interview, I reviewed the menu and noted that the planned meal for August 21, 2023, was pasta, meatballs, green beans, and strawberries. For breakfast, the children were served cereal, muffins, yogurt, smokey links and fruit.

I interviewed CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 who both said there's always extra food and the children are given second servings if asked. CCSM 2 said there's plenty of fruits and

vegetables, and that the children are served morning and afternoon snacks as well as breakfast and lunch.

CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer had no concerns and said that there's plenty of food for the children.

On October 12, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. Upon my arrival, I observed Ms. Myers-Bates in the kitchen preparing lunch. During lunch time, I noted that the children were eating chicken nuggets, grapes, cucumbers, and crackers. Child P was the youngest child and did not eat the planned meal. Child P was given a bottle of milk.

On October 12, 2023, I called and spoke with Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother. I left messages with Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother.

Child B's Mother said Child B is in Kindergarten now but when he attended the child care, she had no issues with the meals prepared at Ms. Myers-Bates' home. Child B was at the child care home for almost six years. Child B's Mother said she does not have any concerns.

Child D and Child L's Mother and Child F and Child P's Mother both said Ms. Myers-Bates always sends the menus. Child D and Child L's Mother said she knows exactly what her children are eating at the child care home. Child D and Child L's Mother said Child D is a picky eater. Ms. Myers-Bates is very accommodating and does her best to substitute meals.

On October 12, 2023, Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother both called and left messages.

On October 13, 2023, I called and spoke with Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother. None of them had any issues or concerns.

Child V's Mother said she used to volunteer at the child care home. When she was there, she helped with preparing the meals. Child V's Mother said the menu is always posted. She has no concerns with the food, and she said the children are eating well at the child care home.

Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother and Child Y and Child Z's Mother both said they had no concerns with the food served at the child care home. Child Y and Child Z's Mother said her children "eat like horses" and that they're very happy with Ms. Myers-Bates' cooking.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1931	Food preparation and service.
	(1) A licensee shall ensure that all of the following requirements are met: (a) Each child shall be provided with nutritional and sufficient food pursuant to the minimum meal requirements of the child care food program, as administered by the Michigan department of education. These minimum meal requirements are based on the dietary guidelines for Americans made by the National Academy of Medicine, which are available at https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks . This subrule does not apply to children whose parents provide their food.
ANALYSIS:	Ms. Myers-Bates is preparing and serving nutritional food. The children are provided with sufficient food. On August 21, 2023, Ms. Myers-Bates served pasta, meatballs, green beans, and bananas for lunch. On October 12, 2023, Ms. Myers- Bates served chicken nuggets, grapes, cucumbers, and crackers.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: The child care home is extremely unsanitary and cluttered.

INVESTIGATION: On August 21, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I interviewed Ms. Myers- Bates, CCSM 1, CCSM 2, and Supervised Volunteer, separately.

Upon my arrival, I inspected the child care home. I did not smell any odor or observe anything that was unsanitary. I inspected the living room, two bedrooms on the main level and one bedroom upstairs on the second floor. I noted that in the living room there were children’s size chairs, and toys stacked in a gated area by the wood burner. In the first bedroom on the main level, there was a bunk bed with storage space under the top bunk. There were toy bins, a cot and three pack ‘n plays. In the master bedroom, there was a bed with clothes stacked on top, and a pack ‘n play. The bedroom on the second floor had a desk, two beds and sleeping mats.

Ms. Myers- Bates admitted she has a lot of stuff in her house. Her house is small. She said her children, AHM 1, MHM 1, MHM 2, and MHM 3 all live in the house. She has a lot of toys with little storage space. After the children play with toys, they are

cleaned up and stored away. She also rotates toys out as needed. She does not feel that her house is dirty or unkempt. Ms. Myers- Bates said she cleans daily.

CCSM 1 said if the house is cluttered it is because Ms. Myers- Bates has four children in addition to running a child care. CCSM 1 said the house is cleaned daily and a deep clean on the weekends.

CCSM 2 said the house is small and there's a lot of stuff, but she does not think that it is cluttered. She said Ms. Myers- Bates is not a hoarder.

CCSM 1 and CCSM 2 both said the toys are always stored away after each use. They do not have any concerns or complaints regarding the condition of the child care home.

On October 12, 2023, I completed an unannounced on-site inspection. I inspected the living room and bedrooms on the main and second levels of the home. In the first bedroom, there were toy bins stored under the bunk bed, a pack 'n play and cots stored in the corner of the room. In the master bedroom, there were two baskets of clothes on top of the bed. On the second level, there were sleeping mats stored against the wall by the window with pillows and blankets stacked on top. In the living room, there were toys and books stored in bins by the gated area by the wood burner. There was a pack 'n play and swings also in the living room.

On October 12, 2023, I called and spoke with Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother, and Child F and Child P's Mother. I left messages with Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother.

Child B's Mother, Child D and Child L's Mother and Child F and Child P's Mother all said they had no concerns regarding the maintenance of the child care home.

On October 12, 2023, Child V's Mother and Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother both called and left messages.

On October 13, 2023, I called and spoke with Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother. None of them had any issues or concerns.

Child V's Mother, Child Q, Child S and Child A1's Mother, and Child Y and Child Z's Mother all said they had no concerns with the child care home. They did not feel that the home was cluttered or dirty.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.1932	Home maintenance and safety.
	(1) The structure, premises, and furnishings of a child care home must be in good repair and maintained in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition.
ANALYSIS:	The child care home is in good repair and is maintained in a clean, safe, and comfortable condition.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend no change in the status of the license.

Thanh C. Biehl

10/17/2023

Thanh Biehl
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:

Jacquelin Sharkey

10/17/2023

Jacquelin Sharkey
Area Manager

Date