



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

February 10, 2021

Amy Arena
REE Midwest, Inc.
1742 Crooks Rd
Troy, MI 48084

RE: License #: DC330294579
Investigation #: 2021D0108004
Rainbow Child Development Center-Okemos

Dear Ms. Arena:

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:

R 400.8125 (1)	Staff; volunteer; requirements.
R 400.8140 (2)	Discipline.

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

- I interviewed: the person who made the complaint, program director, caregivers, and parents.
- I completed on-site inspections on the following dates: 12/15/2020.

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) 284-9727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Sturdivant".

Monica Sturdivant, Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and Health Systems
611 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909

enclosure

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

License #:	DC330294579
Investigation #:	2021D0108004
Complaint Receipt Date:	12/14/2020
Investigation Initiation Date:	12/14/2020
Report Due Date:	02/12/2021
Licensee Name:	REE Midwest, Inc.
Licensee Address:	1742 Crooks Rd Troy, MI 48084
Licensee Telephone #:	(248) 519-1930
Administrator:	Amy Arena, Designee
Licensee Designee:	Amy Arena, Designee
Name of Facility:	Rainbow Child Development Center-Okemos
Facility Address:	3682 Okemos Rd. Okemos, MI 48864
Facility Telephone #:	(517) 347-1919
Original Issuance Date:	04/14/2008
License Status:	REGULAR
Effective Date:	10/10/2020
Expiration Date:	10/09/2022
Capacity:	108
Program Type:	CHILD CARE CENTER

II. ALLEGATION(S)

	Violation Established?
A staff member pinched Child A between her legs.	No
A staff member locked Child A in a closet and would not let her out.	No

III. METHODOLOGY

12/14/2020	Special Investigation Intake 2021D0108004
12/14/2020	Special Investigation Initiated - Telephone Phone interview with Program Director reporting on what was reported to her from Child A's grandmother.
12/15/2020	Inspection Completed On-site Onsite 1:48pm-2:09pm Interview with Program Director Ronda Gillett Observed child care classrooms.
12/17/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Child A's Guardian
12/17/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Phone interviews with Chaesa Moffatt
12/17/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Phone interview with Heather Hilla
12/17/2020	Contact - Telephone call made Phone interview with Sophie St. Germain
02/09/2021	Contact - Telephone call made Child B's Father - no voicemail Child B's Mother - left voicemail Child C's Mother - left voicemail
02/09/2021	Contact - Telephone call received Child B's Father
02/09/2021	Exit Conference

ALLEGATION: A staff member pinched Child A between her legs.

INVESTIGATION: On 12/15/2020, I received a complaint stating that Child A attends the KinderKare Childcare program in Okemos, Michigan. Child A told her guardian that “Ms. Chaesa” pinched her in between her legs and “Ms. Heather” locked Child A in a closet and would not let her out. “Ms. Chaesa” and “Ms. Heather” are teachers at KinderKare. It is unknown when these things occurred. The complaint alleged that on 12/10/2020, Child A had multiple bathroom accidents at school and staff changed Child A into blue jeans. Child A had redness on the inside of her legs that looked like it could be chafing from the jeans that Child A wore. It is unknown if the redness is still present. It is reported that Child A has very sensitive skin and does not normally wear blue jeans.

On 12/15/2020, I conducted an unannounced onsite inspection at the child care center. During this onsite inspection I conducted an interview with Program Director, Ronda Gillett, and observed the classrooms where Child A is enrolled.

After I informed Ms. Gillett of the allegations, she stated that on 12/11/2020, Child A’s Guardian told her that Child A claimed that a staff member pinched her between her legs. She also stated that another staff member locked Child A in the closet. Ms. Gillett added that the next time Child A attended the child care center, Child A’s Guardian told her that Child A later admitted that these things did not happen.

Ms. Gillett stated that she does not believe that the caregivers identified in the complaint would harm a child. She confirmed that on 12/10/2020 Child A had several bathroom accidents which resulted in the staff members having to change her clothes. She acknowledged that by the time Child A had her last accident, Child A had no more extra clothes so the staff member working with Child A found a pair of jeans in the office for Child A to wear. Ms. Gillett believes that the jeans irritated Child A’s skin, as she is known to have sensitive skin and typically did not wear jeans.

On 12/17/2020, I conducted a phone interview with Child A’s Guardian. Child A’s Guardian stated that Child A came to her on 12/10/2020 and told her that her legs hurt, and she noticed that Child A was wearing someone else’s jeans. She added that Child A does not like jeans because they rub and chafe her skin. As Child A’s Guardian was checking Child A’s legs, Child A stated, “Ms. Sophie pinched me.” Child A’s Guardian indicated that she asked Child A if this were true and Child A replied, “I know, I know. Ms. Sophie did not pinch me.” Child A’s Guardian explained that Child A has in the past embellished stories or threatened to say things happened that did not. This is what caused her to ask Child A if she was being honest about the claims of being pinched. Child A’s Guardian was not sure why Child A had jeans on because she had a backpack full of clothing. She added that by the time she picked Child A up Child A was walking “bowlegged” because she was in pain. When they got home, she removed Child A’s jeans and she saw a small red mark. Child A’s Guardian stated

that the small red mark later evolved into a large red area that resembled a diaper rash.

Child A's Guardian stated that Child A is going through a lot of transition in her home life and this has caused her to have some behavioral issues. She added that Child A has begun to act out her feelings which includes having melt downs, making up stories, hitting, biting, and having bathroom accidents. Child A's Guardian also believes that the transition between the preschool and Pre-k classroom has also contributed to the difficult behavior that Child A has been showing. She stated that Child A is very comfortable with "Ms. Chaesa" but is not comfortable with "Ms. Sophie" and "Ms. Heather." Child A's Guardian stated that she has not had any concerns about the care that Child A receives at the child care center, but once Child A made the allegations, she felt it was important to address it with Ms. Gillett.

On 12/17/2021, I conducted a phone interview with staff member, Chaesa Moffatt. Ms. Moffatt stated that she primarily worked in the preschool classroom until she was moved to be co-lead in the Pre-k room. Ms. Moffatt stated that she did not change Child A's clothes on the day of the incident. She added that Ms. St. Germain was the staff member to assist Child A, but Child A was the one to put the clothes on herself. She added that she was aware that Child A was having "potty regressions" and appeared to use "pottying as control." She indicated that Child A had about one to six accidents per day and had run out of clothes at times. Ms. Moffatt confirmed that Child A had run out of clothes on the day of the incident and a pair of jeans were picked for her out of the center's stash of extra clothes. Ms. Moffatt denied seeing Ms. St. Germain or any other staff member pinch Child A.

On 12/17/2020, I conducted a phone interview with staff member, Sophie St. Germain. Ms. St. Germain stated that Child A recently started spending time in her classroom the week prior to the allegation. Ms. St. Germain stated that when Child A first started the transition to her class for small amounts of time, she had no issues. Over time, however, Child A began to have frequent bathroom accidents which required a lot of changes of clothes. Ms. St. Germain stated that the first time Child A ran out of clothes was the day that Child A spent a full day in her classroom. Ms. St. Germain had to get Child A extra clothes from the child care center. Ms. St. Germain assisted Child A in changing her clothes, but she kept the door open and stood in the doorway so she could be seen by the other staff member. While Ms. St. Germain assisted Child A in getting dressed, she saw that Child A had a small red mark between her legs where her underwear rubbed. She indicated that when Child A returned the next day, she saw that Child A had a bigger red mark that looked like a diaper rash. Ms. St. Germain stated that she did not know that Child A had skin sensitivity before she put her in jeans. She added that Ms. Moffatt and Ms. Gillett both checked for Child A's own clothes before she was put in the jeans, but she ran out of clothing. Ms. St. Germain denied pinching Child A. She added that she has never seen a staff member pinch a child.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8125	Staff; volunteer; requirements.
	(1) All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.
ANALYSIS:	There is no evidence to support the allegation that a staff member pinched Child A. Child A later admitted that this did not occur.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ALLEGATION: A staff member locked Child A in a closet and would not let her out.

INVESTIGATION: The complaint received on 12/15/2020, also alleged that “Ms. Heather” locked Child A in a closet and would not let her out. The complaint included the statement that “there are no closets in the classroom that Child A was in on 12/10/20.”

During the interview with Ms. Gillett, she stated that Child A is enrolled in the preschool class that is upstairs next to the office. She added that this classroom does not have a closet or any other room that could be mistaken for a closet. Ms. Gillett indicated that Child A also goes to the Pre-K classroom in the lower level of the building on days that the preschool class is full. She stated that there is a storage room and heat plant room in the Pre-K classroom.

Ms. Gillett took me to observe both classrooms during the onsite inspection. The preschool room is on the main level of the building right next to the office. It is a large open space with no storage rooms or closets. The Pre-K room is located on the lower level of the building. This room is also a large open space but there are two additional rooms in this space. The first room is a mechanical room that houses heat producing equipment. This room has no lock on the door and the door always remains closed according to Ms. Gillett. The other small room located within the Pre-K room is a small storage room. This room had several toys and other equipment. Ms. Gillett stated that the children’s cots are also kept in this room. The door to the storage room was open and Ms. Gillett stated that the door is kept open. The storage room door also did not have a lock. Ms. Gillett denied hearing about or seeing a child being placed in a closet, storage room, or mechanical room.

Child A’s Guardian stated that around the same time Child A claimed that a teacher pinched her, she also stated that “Ms. Heather” locked her in a closet. Child A’s Guardian asked Child A if the door was closed and she said “no” but she added that “Ms. Heather” was sitting in front of the door.

Ms. Moffatt acknowledged that the Pre-K classroom also has two smaller rooms. She added that the storage room in the back of the Pre-K room is used for storing extra cots and equipment. She confirmed that the door to the storage room is always left open. Ms. Moffatt stated that the other room is a mechanical room where the furnace is. She added that children are not allowed in the mechanical room. Ms. Moffatt denied ever seeing a child placed in the storage room or mechanical room. She stated that Ms. Hilla is pregnant and has physical limitations so she does not believe that she could possibly move Child A into the closet. Ms. Moffatt also explained that Ms. Hilla works in the morning and leaves in the afternoon. She added that Child A does not come into the center until lunch so she would have limited exposure to Ms. Hilla.

On 12/17/2020, I conducted a phone interview with staff member, Heather Hilla. Ms. Hilla stated that she worked with Child A occasionally when she was in the upstairs preschool classroom. She added that she works in the morning and Child A arrives in the afternoon, so she only worked with Child A a “few times.” Ms. Hilla denied putting Child A in a closet. She added that the classroom that she works in has no closets. She indicated that the building has bathrooms that lock from the inside, but the child typically goes into the bathroom without assistance. Ms. Hilla also recalled a time where the staff members were doing a disaster drill which included them taking the children into a room with no windows, which could resemble a closet, but Child A was not in her room the day of the drill. Ms. Hilla denied seeing another staff member place a child in the closet, and she was unsure why Child A would make the allegation.

Ms. St. Germain stated that the more time that Child A spent in her room, the more behavioral concerns she displayed. She stated that little things, like dumping the crayon boxes, turned into bigger concerns such as cursing and hitting the teachers and other children. She recalled one incident where Child A chased her with scissors. Ms. St. Germain stated that to help Child A calm down she took her to the back of the Pre-K room next to the storage room which is away from the other children. Ms. St. Germain denied putting Child A in the storage room, but she stated that she sits a chair in the doorway of the storage room and has the child sit in the chair while she sits with them or stands close to them. Ms. St. Germain described that chair as a soft foam chair that looks like a lazy boy. I asked Ms. St. Germain how she gets Child A to the back of the classroom and she stated that she walked hand in hand with Child A. Ms. St. Germain indicated that when they got to the storage room door, she allowed Child A to sit in the chair. She asked Child A to “find her bubble” which she explained was a way to get Child A to breathe and calm herself. Ms. St. Germain stated that this did not help Child A settle so she talked to Child A about hitting then let her go back to where she was originally working. Ms. St. Germain stated that she has done this with many of the other children as the area of the room allows the children to have some privacy and allows them space to calm down. Ms. St. Germain denied ever putting Child A or any of the other children in the closet and she added that there is no space in the closet as it is usually taken up by the cots and equipment.

On 02/09/2021, I conducted a phone interview with Child B’s Father. Child B’s Father stated that he had no concerns about the care that is provided at the child care center.

I contacted Child C's Mother and left a message requesting a phone interview. I have not received a call back at the time of this report.

APPLICABLE RULE	
R 400.8140	Discipline.
	(2) All of the following means of punishment are prohibited: (h) Confining a child in an enclosed area, such as a closet, locked room, box, or similar enclosure.
ANALYSIS:	The area outside of the storage room is used as a quiet place to allow children time to calm. Child A was not placed inside of the storage room/closet.
CONCLUSION:	VIOLATION NOT ESTABLISHED

IV. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the status of the license remain unchanged and that the special investigation be closed.



02/10/2021

Monica Sturdivant
Licensing Consultant

Date

Approved By:



02/10/2021

Erika Bigelow
Area Manager

Date