



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2019

Amy Edgar  
Appletree Learning Center Knapp, LLC  
555 Cascade W Parkway SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

RE: License #: DC410327696  
Investigation #: 2019D0604007  
Appletree Learning Center Knapp

Dear Ms. Edgar:

Attached is the Special Investigation Report for the above referenced facility. Due to the violations identified in the report, a written corrective action plan is required. The corrective action plan is due 15 days from the date of this letter and 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.

If you desire technical assistance in addressing these issues, please feel free to contact me. In any event, the corrective action plan is due within 15 days.

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 (616) 356-0183.

Per MCL 722.113g, this report and any related corrective action plans must be filed in your licensing notebook.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Arens".

Rachel Arens, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
Unit 13, 7th Floor  
350 Ottawa, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 916-5074

enclosure

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

**I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

<b>License #:</b>	DC410327696
<b>Investigation #:</b>	2019D0604007
<b>Complaint Receipt Date:</b>	01/09/2019
<b>Investigation Initiation Date:</b>	01/09/2019
<b>Report Due Date:</b>	03/10/2019
<b>Licensee Name:</b>	Appletree Learning Center Knapp, LLC
<b>Licensee Address:</b>	555 Cascade West Parkway Grand Rapids, MI 49546
<b>Licensee Telephone #:</b>	(616) 454-5432
<b>Administrator:</b>	Amy Edgar, Designee
<b>Licensee Designee:</b>	Amy Edgar, Designee
<b>Name of Facility:</b>	Appletree Learning Center Knapp
<b>Facility Address:</b>	3100 Learning Lane Grand Rapids, MI 49525
<b>Facility Telephone #:</b>	(616) 364-0543
<b>Original Issuance Date:</b>	09/13/2012
<b>License Status:</b>	REGULAR
<b>Effective Date:</b>	03/11/2017
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	03/10/2019
<b>Capacity:</b>	168
<b>Program Type:</b>	CHILD CARE CENTER

**II. ALLEGATION(S)**

	<b>Violation Established?</b>
The playground is not being maintained in a safe condition. A climbing structure on the playground is broken, and on 12/18/18 Child A (male, 4 years) was injured.	Yes

**III. METHODOLOGY**

01/09/2019	Special Investigation Intake 2019D0604007
01/09/2019	Contact - Document Received Received a copy of the incident report from Child Care Licensing Consultant, Lisa Bush.
01/09/2019	Contact - Telephone call received Spoke with complainant regarding the allegations. She sent me texted pictures of the broken equipment.
01/10/2019	Contact - Telephone call received Spoke to Child A's mother.
01/14/2019	Inspection Completed On-site Interviewed Program Director Amy Edgar and caregiver Taylor Wustman. Inspected playground.
03/20/19	Exit conference with Ms. Edgar.

**ALLEGATION: The playground is not being maintained in a safe condition. A climbing structure on the playground is broken, and on 12/18/18 Child A (male, 4 years) was injured.**

**INVESTIGATION:** On 01/09/19, a complaint was received by the Department regarding the maintenance of the playground at the center. That same day I spoke with the complainant, who stated that a climbing structure located on the playground is broken and has not been repaired in a timely fashion. On 12/18/18, Child A was running under the bridge of the structure and hit his head on the equipment. It gave him “a gash all the way through his winter hat.” The complainant was concerned that it was a safety issue that the administration knew about and wasn’t taking seriously. As of 01/09/19, it still hadn’t been fixed.

I reached out to Child Care Licensing Consultant Lisa Bush, to see if she had received an incident report regarding the child’s injury. She had, and she sent the document to me. It states that on 12/18/18, Child A was playing outside when he bumped his head on a corner of a metal piece of equipment under the playset. Caregiver Taylor Wustman took off his hat and noticed that he was bleeding. She informed caregiver Ashley Lockery who took the child inside, applied first aid and contacted the Program Director, Amy Edgar. Child A was taken to the doctor, where he received staples to close the wound.

On 01/10/19, I spoke with Child A’s mother. She said that she felt the center handled the situation well. “It was fine, a pretty typical incident for running and playing on the playground.” Child A’s mother said the center staff told her he had hit his head underneath the playground equipment but that they looked for something it could have happened on and couldn’t find anything. “I’m sure he was just running and collided with something.” They called Child A’s mother to let her know it had happened and she took him to the pediatrician where he received one staple. “He’s doing fine, I have no concerns.”

On 01/14/2019 I completed an unannounced on-site inspection at the center and interviewed Program Director Amy Edgar. Ms. Edgar stated that Child A had injured his head on the playground, but that they couldn’t find a specific spot where he would have done that. She stated that she asked the maintenance man to look around outside to see if anything was obviously broken. She provided me with an incident report that had been sent home to Child A’s mother, and written statements by the two caregivers who had been outside with him when the incident occurred, Ashley Lockery and Taylor Wustman. Both statements stated that he hit his head on playground equipment but didn’t specify which piece.

I interviewed caregiver Taylor Wustman, who said Child A approached her on the playground on 12/18/18 and he was upset and injured. She asked him where he hit his head and he kept pointing at the climbing structure and saying “over there.” “Ashley and I looked around, and there was just one place we could find that looked kind of broken or sharp.” Ms. Wustman said they told the Program Director about the spot and she said she would have the maintenance man check it.

I asked Ms. Edgar to walk out on the playground with me as I inspected it. Under a bridge on the large climbing structure, there is a piece of plastic which looks as if it

was cut when being installed, and it has a slight sharp point to it which is not flush with the metal below it, so it sticks out at the bottom about a half an inch. There was also a loose screw in the same spot, which was sticking out slightly from the plastic piece. When compared to the same piece on the opposite side of the bridge, it does not match. The piece on the opposite side of the bridge has not been cut and has no sharp edges. The screw on that side is also tightly fitted. There did not appear to be any other broken or sharp pieces on the equipment, and the rest of the playground was being maintained in a good and safe condition.

<b>APPLICABLE RULE</b>	
<b>R 400.8170</b>	<b>Outdoor play area.</b>
	<b>(10) An outdoor play area and any equipment located on the center's premises shall be maintained in a safe condition and inspected daily before use to ensure that no hazards are present.</b>
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	There is a sharp edge on the climbing structure which creates a hazard. Child A injured his head while playing under that same structure on 12/18/18 and by 01/4/19 the hazard was still present.
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	<b>VIOLATION ESTABLISHED</b>

**IV. RECOMMENDATION**

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

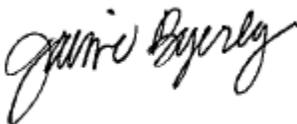


03/14/19

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rachel Arens  
 Licensing Consultant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Approved By:



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Jaime Byerly

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Area Manager