



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

September 27, 2019

Teresa Nault  
Alger Marquette Community Action Board  
1125 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: License #: DC020378966  
**Alger Head Start**  
**413 Maple Street**  
**Munising, MI 49862**

Dear Ms. Nault:

This letter is a follow-up to the Department's findings regarding the interim inspection conducted at your center on 09/11/2019. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance with applicable licensing statutes and administrative rules for Child Care Centers.

The violations that were found are:

**R 400.8110**

**Licensee.**

(10) Written approval from the department shall be obtained before making any changes in the terms of the license, including but not limited to, adding use space, changing age groups served, changing program components, changing the capacity of the center, or making changes to a room or well-defined space that will result in a change in capacity of the room or well-defined space.

The program was originally licensed as a half-day program. It has changed to a full-day program, with no modification request submitted to child care licensing. In addition, the child care center has been using an outdoor space adjacent to the center that was not approved for child care use.

**R 400.8125**

**Staff and Volunteers.**

(1) All staff and volunteers shall provide appropriate care and supervision of children at all times.

During the inspection, I observed multiple incidents of aggressive children and unsafe behavior that were not addressed appropriately by caregivers.

- On at least two occasions in the Community Center indoor playground, children landed on each other at the bottom of the slide. On one occasion, one caregiver reminded the children to wait until the next child was off.
- On at least two occasions children were in areas of the Community Center indoor playground and they were not visible to caregivers
- One child hit children on at least four occasions. Two of these occasions were observed by me and not by a caregiver. The child continued aggressive behavior throughout my inspection.
- Another child hit children on at least two occasions.
- Two children threw items down the hallway while one caregiver was in the bathroom with children, another caregiver was in the classroom alone preparing lunch service and the third caregiver was too occupied to notice. During this same period, one child ran from the hallway to the indoor playground and I was the only adult with active children in the hallway for more than 60 seconds.
- Two children spit at each other while I was in the hallway with one assistant caregiver. If the caregiver observed it, she did not respond. I told the children that there is no spitting.
- Two children cried for over 15 minutes during the inspection. Although some encouragement was provided to them, the response did not match the standard of care that is typically observed in child care settings.
- During the chaotic period in the hallway, I recommended to the assistant caregiver that she engage the children in a song. She stated that she was new and did not know any.
- One child received a contusion on her forehead while playing in the indoor playground.
- One child had her finger pinched in a large model on display in the indoor playground.
- Items that need to be out of reach of children including wires from broken decorative hanging items, plastic sandwich bags, and rubber bands were located in a section of the indoor playground accessible to children.

**REPEAT VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**

**LSR Report Dated 03/13/2018**

**Corrective Action Plan Dated 03/26/2018**

**R 400.8134**

**Hand washing.**

(3) Staff and volunteers shall assure that children wash their hands at all of the following times:

(a) Before meals, snacks, or food preparation experiences.

Children were instructed to go to the bathroom with one caregiver to wash their hands. The children then returned to the hallway and not the classroom for

approximately 10 minutes. I observed the children putting on shoes, opening and closing lockers, playing with items in lockers, hitting and spitting at each other, throwing items, touching the floor, mats, and benches in the hallway, and touching one another's hands and faces. They then went to the lunch tables without further washing of their hands.

**R 400.8170 Outdoor play area.**

(3) A center operating with children in attendance for 3 or more continuous hours per day shall provide daily outdoor play, unless prevented by inclement weather or other weather conditions that could result in children becoming overheated or excessively chilled.

Outdoor play has not been provided to the children since school began. The program director advised that when only two caregivers are present, the need for supervision of the children is too high. She stated, "I am not brave enough for outside with only two people."

The approved outdoor play area is at the back of the adjacent school playground. This playground has not been used due to the program director's opinion that the site is too far for the children, as "someone always has to go to the bathroom" when they get to the location.

**R 400.8170 Outdoor play area.**

(7) The outdoor play area shall be in a safe location.

Due to the issues with the existing approved outdoor play area, in past months, the children have been brought to an unapproved and unsafe location next to the building. This outdoor area is narrow, unfenced, near a street, and on an incline with a washed-out area near the doorway to the facility.

**R 400.8380 Maintenance of premises.**

(4) Floors, interior walls, and ceilings shall be kept in sound condition and good repair and shall be maintained in a clean condition.

A low-quality vinyl flooring was installed in the classroom based on the previous violations of maintaining the cleanliness of the painted cement floor. The current flooring has at least 14 torn areas. These tears and additional wearing and marring of the flooring do not allow for adequate cleaning.

**REPEAT VIOLATION ESTABLISHED**  
**LSR Report Dated 03/27/2016**  
**Corrective Action Plan Dated 04/19/2016**

**R 400.8143****Children's Records**

(11) Parent's permission for the child's participation in field trips shall be obtained at the time of enrollment or before each field trip and kept on file at the center.

The indoor playground is not approved child care use space. The center has used the indoor playground as a "field trip" with permission signed by the children's parents. Fourteen children were present in the indoor playground on 9/11/19 and only nine permission slips were signed by a parent.

Due to the violations, you must send us a corrective action plan by 10/14/2019. 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.

I recommend increased monitoring of this center due to multiple repeat violations.

You can find a copy of this inspection letter and any associated corrective action plans on our [website](#) under [Statewide Search for Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes](#). A description of when inspection letters are completed can be found under [Overview of Licensing Reports](#).

Please 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 (906) 226-4171.

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

Sincerely,



Anne O'Neill, Licensing Consultant  
Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
234 W. Baraga Ave.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 290-2131



September 27, 2019

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Rose A. Rafferty  
Area Manager  
(989) 423-9687

Date