

## PE teacher knocks out her 6-year-old's teeth, mom says

**JUSTIN MURPHY**

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A physical education teacher at the newly opened Exploration Charter School in Rochester is on leave after allegedly knocking a 6-year-old's front teeth out while slamming him to the ground. The boy's name is Marlon-K'Harri Williams. His mother, Kia Thompson-White, said she was at work Friday when she got a text message saying Marlon-K'Harri had been hurt.

When she went to the school, she said, the principal couldn't tell her what happened. "She didn't even have half the story — it was a third of the story," Thompson-White said. "She didn't have any explanation; she just kept telling me about how my son was behaving. And I want him to take responsibility for his actions, but at the end of the day, he's a 6-year-old boy." One of Marlon-K'Harri's front teeth was knocked out immediately, and the other one was loose enough that a doctor said it had to be pulled as well, Thompson-White said. He also had a cut on the lip. They were his baby teeth, not permanent ones, Thompson-White said, but she insisted they had not been loose.

School CEO Lisa Clark said in a statement: "I'm deeply concerned about the student who was in our care and was injured. ... We take any matter involving the safety and security of our children very seriously and intend to understand what happened so that we can prevent it from happening again."

Exploration is the newest charter school in Rochester, having opened last month. It only has students in kindergarten and first grade this year.

Neither the school nor the Rochester Police Department, with whom Thompson-White filed a criminal complaint, would confirm the teacher's name.

Thompson-White said she has re-enrolled her son in the Rochester City School District. Her goal now is to be sure the teacher in question isn't left in place where he might harm other children.

"He doesn't need to be around anyone else's kids if that's the best way he can handle himself," she said. "I understand if (my son) was having a bad day — you can call me about that, and I'm going to talk to him about that. But why is his tooth knocked out? ... One call to me, and the whole day would have gone differently."

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**Marlon-K'Harri Williams**

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**KIA THOMPSON-WHITE**

**MARLON-K'HARII WILLIAMS'S MOTHER**