

Center Licensing Inspection Full Report

All licensed child care programs are inspected at least once each year. Non-compliances are documented and grouped as Serious, Moderate or Low risk violations. Documenting statements and supplemental information may be included in this report. Licensing inspection reports from the previous three years can be viewed on the child care website at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/CDC/childcare.stm>. This includes complaint investigation reports with substantiated allegations. For any other child care records, please contact the Child Care Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347, option 4.

Program Details			
Program Name Early Steps Learning Center	Program Number 000000300561	Program Type Child Care Center	
Address 1601 DRENK DRIVE #2-4 WICKLIFFE OH 44092			County LAKE
Building Approval Date 04/17/2014	Use Group/Code E	Occupancy Limit 118	Maximum Under 2 ½
Fire Inspection Approval Date 07/10/2025	Food Service Risk Level Level IV		

Inspection Information				
Inspection Type Annual		Inspection Scope Full		Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 11/13/2025		Begin Time 9:45 AM		End Time 3:36 PM
Reviewer: Jennifer Bartlebaugh				
Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified 58	No. Rules with Non-compliances 6	No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk 0	No. Low Risk 6

License Capacity and Enrollment at the Time of Inspection				
Age Group	License Capacity	Enrollment		
	Totals	Full Time	Part Time	Total
Infant (Birth to < 18 m)		4	0	4
Young Toddler		7	0	7
Total Under 2 ½ Years	40	11	0	11
Older Toddler		2	0	2
Preschool		12	0	12
School Age		16	0	16
Total Capacity/Enrollment	118	30	0	41

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection			
Group	Age Group/Range	Ratio Observed	Comment

Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 4	Arrival Ratio
Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 5	Nap Ratio
Toddler	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 7	Arrival Ratio
Toddler	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 7	Nap Ratio
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 11	Arrival Ratio
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 10	Nap Ratio
School-age	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 10	1st School-age Arrival in Afternoon
School-age	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 15	Second Ratio

Summary of Non-Compliances

If a program disagrees with a licensing finding, the program may request a review of the finding(s). Ohio Administrative Code 5180:2-12-03 and 5180:2-13-03 detail the process for submitting a request for review. The request for review must be submitted within seven business days from the receipt of the licensing report. In addition, if the program is star rated, the rating may be impacted if a serious or moderate risk non-compliance is cited.

Serious Risk Non-Compliances

No Serious Risk Non-Compliances were observed during this inspection

Moderate Risk Non-Compliances

No Moderate Risk Non-Compliances were observed during this inspection

Low Risk Non-Compliances

Domain: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment

Code: The program is required to provide an environment that protects the children in care from any items and conditions that may threaten their health, safety, and well-being.

Finding: Children in care shall be protected from any items and conditions which threaten their health, safety, and well-being. During the inspection, it was determined that at least one area (School-age bathroom sink area) had chipping or peeling paint. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/13/2025

Domain: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment

Code: The program is required to provide a clean restroom with the appropriate materials available.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that unsanitary conditions, as noted in number 6 below, were in the preschool restroom:

1. There was no liquid soap.
2. There was no toilet paper.
3. There were no paper towels.
4. The toilet cleaning brush was accessible to the children.
5. The plunger was accessible to the children.
6. The toilet was not flushed.
7. The trash was not emptied from the day before.
8. There was a strong urine odor.
9. Other [].

The restroom(s) must be kept sanitary at all times. Technical assistance was provided at the time of the inspection, and as discussed, please correct this rule noncompliance. A written response for this rule noncompliance is not required at this time.

Domain: 07 Diapering & Infant Care

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cribs

Code: The program is required to provide cribs with mattresses in good condition and sheets that are not too large or too small for the crib.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that sheets, mattresses and/or mattress covers did not meet the rule requirement as noted in number 2 below:

1. At least one crib did not have a sheet.
2. At least one sheet was too large.
3. At least one sheet was too small.
4. At least one sheet was torn.
5. The mattress was not at least one and one-half inches thick.
6. The mattress was not firm.
7. There was space between the mattress and the sides and end panels of the crib which exceeded one and one-half inches.
8. The mattress cover was not waterproof.
9. The mattress cover was torn.
10. Other: [].

Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/13/2025

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Medical Statement

Code: The program staff's medical statements are required to be completed and on file at the program.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that the medical statements for the employees listed on the Employee Record Chart did not meet the requirements as listed in number 6 a, b, c, d below.

1. A medical statement was not on file for at least one employee;
2. The medical statement(s) on file did not have a date of examination within 12 months of the employee's first day of employment;
3. Date of examination was missing;
4. Signature, business address, or telephone number of the licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, certified midwife, or certified nurse practitioner who completed the examination was missing;
5. A statement was missing that verifies the employee is:

- a. Physically fit for employment in a program caring for children;
- b. Immunized against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap);
- c. Immunized against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR);
- 6. Tuberculosis (TB) screening/test information was missing:
 - a. Documentation of the screening process to determine if the employee resided in a country identified by the world health organization as having a high burden of TB and arrived in the United States within the five years preceding the date of application for employment.
 - b. Results of a TB test for employees meeting both criteria in 6a.
 - c. Results of additional testing for employees with a positive TB test.
 - d. Written statement, signed by a representative of the TB control unit, that the employee's TB is no longer infectious or the individual is receiving a TB treatment regimen for employees with a positive TB test.

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the completed employee medical statement, or TB results/documentation, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/13/2025

Domain: 09 Children's Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Medical and Enrollment Records

Code: The program is required to use the updated JFS 01234 "Child Enrollment and Health Information For Child Care".

Finding: In review of 25% of the children's records, it was determined that information had not been secured from the parent/guardian on the JFS 01234 "Child Enrollment and Health Information For Child Care", as required, for the items in number(s) 7, 10 below.

- 1. No enrollment form was completed for at least one child
- 2. The current JFS 01234 was not completed for at least one child
- 3. Complete child information
- 4. Complete parent information
- 5. Complete emergency contact information
- 6. Complete physician information
- 7. Information regarding the parent list
- 8. Health information
- 9. Additional information for all boxes checked "yes"
- 10. Emergency transportation information
- 11. Parent/guardian's signature
- 12. Diapering Statement
- 13. Acknowledgement of Policies and Procedures
- 14. Enrollment form for at least one child was not updated by either the parent or the administrator
- 15. Enrollment form for at least one child was not signed by the administrator
- 16. Other []

Technical assistance was provided at the time of the inspection, and as discussed, please correct this rule noncompliance. A written response for this rule noncompliance is not required at this time.

Domain: 10 Written Policies & Procedures

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Written Program Policies and Procedures

Code: The program's policies and procedures are required to include all topics outlined in rule.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined the program's written policies and procedures provided to the parents/guardians and employees was missing item number 29 below:

General Information

1. Program name, address, email address and telephone number.
2. Description of the program's program philosophy.
3. Days and hours of operation, scheduled closings and basic daily schedule.
4. Staff/child ratios and group size.
5. Opportunities for parent involvement in program activities.
6. Opportunities for parents to meet with teachers regarding their child.
7. Payment schedule, overtime charges and registration fees as applicable.
8. Supports for onsite breastfeeding or pumping for mothers who wish to do so (if the program serves infants or toddlers).

Program Policies and Procedures

9. Enrollment including required enrollment information.
10. Care of children without immunizations.
11. Attendance including procedures for arrival and departure, the program's absent day policy, releasing child to persons other than the parent, releasing a child according to a custody agreement and follow up when a child scheduled to arrive from another program or activity does not arrive.
12. Supervision of children, including a separate supervision policy for school-age children, if applicable.
13. Child guidance.
14. Suspension and expulsion.
15. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including administering medication to children with disabilities and administering care procedures to children with disabilities.
16. Outdoor play, including limitations placed on outdoor play due to weather or safety issues (considerations may include but are not limited to temperature, humidity, wind chill, ozone levels, pollen count, lightning, rain or ice.)
17. Food and dietary policy, including, information regarding meeting one-third of the child's recommended daily dietary allowance, policy regarding formula, breast milk, meals and snacks, and a policy on providing supplemental food.
18. Management of illness including isolation precautions, symptoms for discharge and return and notification of parent of ill child.

19. Summary of procedures taken in the event of an emergency, serious illness or injury.
20. Administration of medication and topical products including medical foods, modified diets and whether school age children are permitted to carry their own medication and ointments.
21. Transportation for fieldtrips, routine trips (if applicable) and emergencies, including if the center will provide child care services to children whose parents refuse to grant consent for transportation to the source of emergency treatment.
22. Water activities/swimming.
23. Infant care, if applicable, including feeding, frequency of diaper checks and information about daily activities.
24. Sleeping, Napping and Resting.
25. Evening and overnight care, if applicable.
26. Policy on hours of operation including closing due to weather, school delays or closings and any other factors.
27. Situations that may require disenrollment of a child, if applicable.
28. Problem or issue resolution for parents or employees to follow when needing assistance in resolving problems related to the child care program.
29. Formal screenings and assessments on enrolled children and if the program reports child level data to ODJFS pursuant to 5101:2-17-02 of the Administrative Code.

Revise the program's written policies and procedures to include the missing information. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes the revised written policies and procedures, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/13/2025

Rules In-Compliance/Not Verified

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Written Disaster Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program's written disaster plan was reviewed during the inspection and met the requirements.
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Written Disaster Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Annual training of the written disaster plan was completed by staff.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

Rule: 5180:2-12-02 License Posted	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The license was in a location visible to parents as required.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Building Department Inspection	Compliant	Documenting Statement: A copy of the certificate of occupancy was available on-site for review.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-02 Current Information	Compliant	
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-03 Inspection Requirements	Compliant	
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Fire Inspection	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Please Note: Documentation of a fire inspection without any uncorrected violations must be secured for the program. Secure a new fire inspection by 7/10/2026.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, it was determined the program had documentation they had applied and paid for the renewal of the annual food service license. Please be reminded to post the new food service license once it has been received from the health department. Food service license CGOY-DEVR7K was obtained on March 18, 2025. Please renew by March 1, 2026.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-07 Administrator Qualifications	Compliant	
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Employment records for current as well as past employees were being maintained on file as required.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Child Care Staff Member Educational Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All Child Care Staff Members had verification of educational requirements on file at the program.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Orientation Training & Whistle Blower Protection	Compliant	Documenting Statement: On the day of the inspection, all child care staff members had met orientation training requirements.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-09 Background Check Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the required documentation regarding background checks was on file for all employees listed.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-10 Health Training Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program had at least one Child Care Staff Member with currently valid training in First Aid, Management of Communicable Disease, CPR, and Child Abuse Prevention present and readily accessible during all hours of operation.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-10 Professional Development Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: At the time of the inspection, all child care staff members had completed the required amount of professional development training.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Indoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The restrooms are used exclusively by the program.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Separation of Children Under 2 1/2 Years	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The quarterly playground inspections were completed and documented, as required. The most recent inspection report form was dated 9/26/2025.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Equipment was observed to be in good condition.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding outdoor play equipment were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The protective material used under outdoor equipment was rubber mulch.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Children were viewed washing their hands, as required by the rule after toileting and before lunch.
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Staff and children were observed washing hands as required by the rule.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Smoke Free Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: A notice was observed posted stating that smoking is prohibited at the program.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
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Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation - Driver Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The driver(s) had completed the required ODJFS driver training.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation - Vehicle Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: An annual safety check of the vehicle, using the JFS 01230 "Vehicle Inspection Report For Child Care Centers" form, was verified and dated 6/19/2025 for the 2006 Chevrolet with VIN Number-1GBHG31VX61160002.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Medical/Physical Care Plans	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program had current information on the medical status and the required treatment plan for the children with health conditions.
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Medical/Physical Care Plans	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding caring for children with a specific health condition were discussed.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Medical, Dental, and General Emergency Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: On the day of the inspection, the complete prescribed JFS 01242 "Medical, Dental, and General Emergency Plan For Child Care" were posted in the program as required.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Emergency Drills	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Documentation for completed fire, weather, and emergency/lockdown drills was verified during this inspection.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 First Aid/Standard Precautions	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the program had complete first aid kits available as required.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Management of Communicable Disease	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The JFS 08087 "Communicable Disease Chart" was posted and was readily available to staff and parents.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The JFS 01299 "Incident/Injury Report For Child Care" forms reviewed during this inspection were complete as required.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Sufficient equipment was observed in all categories.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Daily schedules were observed posted.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, attendance records were reviewed. Child Care Staff Members were viewed recording the attendance for each child upon arrival and departure. All attendance records met the requirements of the rule and were kept with the group at all times.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Group Size	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The group sizes observed on the day of the inspection were in compliance.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-17 Daily Outdoor Play	Compliant	
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 License Capacity	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program was operating within their license capacity limits.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The Appendix A "Staff/Child Ratios, Age Grouping and Maximum Group Size" was posted in a noticeable area at the program as required.
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Staff/child ratios observed during the inspection were in compliance.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The rest area had adequate lighting, which allowed for the visual supervision of children.
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cots were placed appropriately and safely during nap time.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, child care staff were observed assisting children throughout the day.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate child guidance techniques and practices were observed being used during the inspection.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal and Snack Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The menu was posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen and visible for staff and parents.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Safe Food Handling/Storage	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All eating utensils were developmentally appropriate.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Fluid Milk Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All infants/toddlers were served formula/milk in sufficient amounts to meet the nutritional requirements.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Daily Care	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate daily written records for all infants were viewed.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Bottle and Food Preparation	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All bottles were labeled as required.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate diaper changing procedures were observed during the inspection in the infant classroom.
Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Administration	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Medication was stored in Ziploc bags with care plan and labeled for each child.