Department of Children & Youth

Licensing Inspection Full Report

All licensed early care and education programs are inspected at least once each year. Non-compliances are documented and grouped by risk level. Documenting statements, technical assistance provided and supplemental information may be included in this report. Licensing inspection reports from the previous three years can be viewed on the Department of Children & Youth website at https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/ . This includes complaint investigation reports with substantiated allegations. For any other early care and education records, please contact the Family and Customer Support Center at 1-844-234-5437.

Program Details		
Program Name Early Steps Learning Center	Program Number 000000300561	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 1601 DRENIK DRIVE #2-4 WICKLIFFE OH 44092		County LAKE

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 10/29/2026	Begin Time 9:00 AM	End Time 3:15 PM	Reviewer: Jennifer Bartlebaugh

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 67	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 6		No. Requirements Compliant 58
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 2	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 5	No. Technical Assistance Provided 4

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)		3	0	3
Young Toddler		5	0	5
Total Under 2 ½ Years	28	8	0	8
Older Toddler		1	0	1
Preschool		7	0	7
School Age		13	0	13
Total Capacity/Enrollment	63	21	0	29

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 3	In Compliance	Arrival Ratio- 9:30AM
Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 3	In Compliance	Nap Ratio- 1:00PM
Toddler	Mixed Age Group	1 to 5	In Compliance	Arrival Ratio- 9:30AM
Toddler	Mixed Age Group	1 to 5	In Compliance	Nap Ratio- 1:00PM
Preschool	Mixed Age Group	1 to 7	In Compliance	Arrival Ratio- 9:30AM Preschool & School-age Combined 2 School-age & 5 Preschool
Preschool	Mixed Age Group	1 to 9	In Compliance	12:00PM- Lunch Preschool & School-age Combined. (6 Preschool & 3 School-age)
Preschool	Mixed Age Group	1 to 9	In Compliance	Nap Ratio- 1:00PM Preschool & School-age combined (6 Preschool & 3 School-age)
School-age	School-Age to < 11 years	0 to 0	In Compliance	Arrival Ratio- 9:30AM Preschool & School-age Combined

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, 5180:2-13-03, 5180:2-19-10 and 5180:2-20-02 detail the process for submitting a request for review. The request for review must be submitted within ten business days from the receipt of the licensing report. In addition, if

the program is Step Up To Quality rated, the rating may be impacted if a serious or moderate risk non-compliance is cited.

Serious Risk Non-Compliances

A serious risk non-compliance is a licensing rule violation that has the potential to lead to a great risk of harm to a child and is observable and/or based on facts.

No serious risk non-compliances were observed during this inspection

Moderate Risk Non-Compliances

A moderate risk non-compliance is a licensing rule violation that has the potential to lead to a great risk of harm to a child and is observable and/or based on facts.

Domain: **07 Diapering & Infant Care**

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cribs - Safe Environment and Practices

Requirement: The program staff is required to remove any items listed in rule that are a potential suffocation risk from cribs.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that a child had been placed in a crib with a pacifier clip/ribbon that created a potential strangulation or suffocation risk.

The rule prohibits any item which obstructs child-care staff's visibility or poses a risk of strangulation or suffocation from being placed on or in a crib. Remove the item(s) immediately. Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that training was provided, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

Domain: **09 Children's Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Health Care Plans

Requirement: The program is required to have a completed DCY 01236 or equivalent form on file at the program for any child having a health condition and must implement and/or follow instructions on the plan. The program is required to have staff trained to perform the procedures on the form present at the program when the child requiring the procedure is onsite. Only staff who have been trained shall be permitted to perform the procedures listed on the form.

Finding: In review of the children's records, it was determined the program did not meet the requirements for caring for at least one child, indicated on the Children's Records Review, with a condition that requires a DCY 01236 "Health Care Plan Documentation & Permission to Administer Medication" or equivalent form.

The following was observed: printed name(s) of child care staff member(s) who received instructions or were trained to perform the procedure were missing; signature(s) of child care staff member(s) who received instructions or were trained to perform the procedure were missing; date of staff signature was missing; administrator/Provider signature was missing; date of Administrator/Provider signature was missing

Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the completed DCY 01236 or equivalent form, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

Other Non-Compliances

This section includes other rule violations that are observable and/or based on facts.

Domain: **02 Safe & Sanitary Environment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment

Requirement: 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 of the program or at least one piece of equipment 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: 11/28/2026

Domain: **02 Safe & Sanitary Environment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment

Requirement: 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: During the inspection, it was determined that children were not protected from item(s) or condition(s) which may threaten their health, safety, or well-being.

The following was observed:

- Employee purse was accessible to the preschoolers in the unlocked cabinet in classroom.

- Stacked chairs accessible in (infants, toddlers and preschool) which can cause a climbing hazard.

Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that training was provided, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

Domain: **04 Indoor/Outdoor Space**

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment

Requirement: The program is required to provide equipment that does not pose a safety risk and must follow the manufacturer's guidelines for assembling, installing and using the equipment.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that outdoor play equipment was unsafe or not used as intended.

The following was observed: outdoor equipment, rock climbing wall was not free of conditions that pose a risk of harm to children. Rock Wall steps were missing screws, and some were loose and needs tightened.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-10 Health Training Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have all child care staff members complete training in child abuse and neglect recognition and prevention within sixty days of hire. Staff must complete training in first aid and CPR within the first ninety days of hire.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that at least one child care staff member had not completed required health and safety training.

The following was observed: child abuse and neglect recognition and prevention training was not completed within sixty days of hire; first aid training was not completed within ninety days of hire; cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training was not completed within ninety days of hire; the child abuse and neglect recognition and prevention training was expired

Refer to the Employee Record Chart for the name(s) of the child care staff member(s) who must complete the required health and safety training(s). Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

Domain: **09 Children's Files**

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

Requirement: The program is required to have a completed and updated DCY 01234 "Child Enrollment and Health Information For Child Care" or equivalent form on file for each child enrolled.

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 DCY 01234 "Child Enrollment Form for Early Care and Education Programs" or equivalent form as required.

The following was observed as missing: emergency transportation information; acknowledgement of Policies and Procedures; enrollment form for at least one child was not signed by the administrator

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Technical Assistance Provided

This section documents technical assistance provided to the program when the program demonstrated an overall level of compliance with a rule requirement.

Domain: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

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

Requirement: The program is to ensure equipment, furnishings, and materials are constructed of materials to facilitate cleaning.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program had equipment or materials or furnishings with material ripped, torn, or not easy to clean as required. Technical assistance was offered to support compliance. As discussed, please make the necessary corrections. A written response is not required at this time.

Climbing blocks in infant room.

Domain: 05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting

Requirement: The program is required to complete the DCY 01299 "Incident/Injury Report" for injuries and incidents at the program, provide a copy to the person who picks the child up on the day of the incident, and retain a copy of the form onsite at the program for one year.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program completed the DCY 01299, however did not include supplemental information (not related to the incident) as required. Technical assistance was offered to support compliance. As discussed, please make the necessary corrections. A written response is not required at this time.

Domain: 06 Program Information

Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation - Vehicle Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have all vehicles used to transport children inspected annually by an ASE certified mechanic, FMCSA safety inspector or the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and correct all repairs that are listed on the vehicle inspection report.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the annual vehicle inspection report (DCY 01230) did not contain all the information as required. Technical assistance was offered to support compliance. As discussed, please make the necessary corrections. A written response is not required at this time.

2008 Express Chevrolet- 1GBHG31C981162907- License GKD7199- Was completed on 10/28/2025 by ASE-2127-9590 but was not marked whether it was approved or not approved on the form and was expired the day of the licensing visit. On weekly drill sheet noted it was out of service on 10/26/2026.

2006 Express Chevrolet- 1GBHG31VX61160002- License-HXW7818- Was completed on 4/24/2026 by ASE-2127-9590 and was approved.

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/Requirements

Requirement: The program administrator is required to maintain current employee records in the Ohio Professional Registry.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined employment records are missing or incomplete in the OPR as required. Technical assistance was offered to support compliance. As discussed, please make the necessary corrections. A written response is not required at this time.

In Compliance/Not Verified/Previously Verified/Not Applicable

This section documents rule requirements that were assessed as fully compliant, previously verified, not verified during this inspection or not applicable to the program.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-18 License Capacity	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-02 License Visible	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The license was in a location visible to parents as required and in front lobby.

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 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
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 7/10/2027.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The food service license was observed posted. Following is the audit number CGOY-DRFJKF (Level IV) and date of expiration is March 1, 2027.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-05 Denial, Revocation and Suspension	Not Applicable	

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 Written Program Policies and Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The written policies and procedures reviewed on the day of the inspection were verified as complete.

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
5180:2-12-10 Professional Development Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Indoor Space Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The outdoor play area is separated from traffic and other hazards by a fence.

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 mulch.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-12 Safe Equipment	Compliant	

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.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The form(s) used by the program for routine and/or field trips were verified to meet the requirements of the rule.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation - Driver Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The driver(s) had completed the required DCY driver training.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 First Aid/Standard Precautions	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Management of Communicable Disease	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The DCY 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 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program's emergency preparedness and response plan was reviewed during the inspection and met the requirements.
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Annual training of the emergency preparedness and response plan was completed by staff.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The following activities were observed: Story time (infant), restroom, transition, music and dancing (Preschool/SA)
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Daily schedules were observed posted.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Sufficient equipment was observed in all categories.

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 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	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-18 Group Size	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Child Care Staff Members were observed recording the attendance for each child upon arrival and documenting each child's departure.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal Preparation and Nutritional Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program offered the following: meatballs, sub bun, carrots, apple slices & milk.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-21 Evening and Overnight Care	Not Applicable	

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: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Bottle and Food Preparation	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All bottles were warmed in accordance with the rule in a bottle warmer.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-22 Fluid Milk Requirements	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-22 Safe Food Handling/Storage	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-24 Swimming and Water Safety Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Emergency Postings	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-21 Mobile Preschools	Not Applicable	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-08 Staff Immunization Records	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-02 Current Information	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule

		regarding maintaining current information in the Ohio Statewide Licensing System were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-02 Amendments to the License	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Practices	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Immunization Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: At the time of the inspection, 25% of the children's records were reviewed, and the immunization records were complete, as required by the rule.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-15 Child Record Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Equipment and Environment	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 - Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cots were placed appropriately and safely during nap time.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cribs - Placement	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All cribs were placed 2 feet apart.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

5180:2-12-22 Specialized Diets	Compliant

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training - Practices	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate diaper changing procedures were observed during the inspection in the infant room.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training - Supplies	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Administration Practices	Compliant	Documenting Statement: There were no children on medication at the time of the inspection; however, the method of storage and practices for the administration were reviewed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-25 Medication Documentation	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Storage	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding administering medication, topical products and medical foods were discussed.