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 Smart Start Childcare	Program Number 2180019239	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 7074 Harrison Ave. Suite 13-20 Cincinnati OH 45247		County HAMILTON

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 11/23/2026	Begin Time 8:20 AM	End Time 12:35 PM	Reviewer: Jessica McCann

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 67	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 2		No. Requirements Compliant 60
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 0	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 2	No. Technical Assistance Provided 7

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)		7	0	7
Young Toddler		32	0	32
Total Under 2 ½ Years	92	39	0	39
Older Toddler		21	0	21
Preschool		53	0	53
School Age		0	26	26
Total Capacity/Enrollment	277	74	26	139

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Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Preschool 1	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 8	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Preschool 1	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 4	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Preschool 2	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 11	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Preschool 2	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 6	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Toddler 2	30 months to < 36 months	1 to 7	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Toddler 2	30 months to < 36 months	3 to 12	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Toddler 1	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 6	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Toddler 1	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 3	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Infant 2	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 3	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Infant 2	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 5	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Infant 1	12 months to < 18 months	2 to 9	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Infant 1	12 months to < 18 months	2 to 5	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Itty Bitty's	0 to < 12 months	2 to 6	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Itty Bitty's	0 to < 12 months	1 to 3	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Ones	12 months to < 18 months	2 to 6	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Ones	12 months to < 18 months	1 to 6	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
School Age	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 11	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
School Age	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 12	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am
Pre-K	4 years to < 5 years	2 to 10	In Compliance	Arrival: 8:20 am
Pre-K	4 years to < 5 years	2 to 17	In Compliance	Lunch: 11:40 am

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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.

No moderate risk non-compliances were observed during this inspection

Other Non-Compliances

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

Domain: **02 Safe & Sanitary Environment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have all staff and children wash their hands as outlined in rule.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that handwashing requirements were not followed as required in rule.

The following was observed: at least one staff/child did not wash their hands upon arrival for the day

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/25/2026

Domain: **10 Written Policies & Procedures**

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

Requirement: The program is required to have an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP).

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined the program's emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) did not meet the requirement or was missing the information.

The following was observed as missing: medical or dental emergencies, including emergency transportation; emergency or evacuation and relocation procedures due to hazardous materials and spills, gas leaks, or bomb threats; or due to threats of violence which include active shooter, bioterrorism, or terrorism; emergency numbers for medical, dental, and transport-related emergencies in addition to 9-1-1; shelter-in-place or evacuation procedures, including how the program will care for and account for children until they can be reunited with a parent; a designated safe site where staff and children can safely relocate and remain when evacuated; procedures for assisting infants, toddlers, and children with special needs and/or health conditions; emergency contact information for parents and the program; procedures for notifying and communicating with parents regarding the location of children if evacuated; procedures for communicating with parents during loss of communications when no phone or internet service is available; the location of supplies and procedures for gathering necessary supplies for staff and children if required to shelter in place; contact with local emergency management officials

Make the necessary revisions to the EPRP. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes the revised information, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/25/2026

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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: 03 Postings & Equipment

Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule

Requirement: The program is required to have the daily program schedule posted in all required areas.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program did not have all daily schedules posted 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: 05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 First Aid/Standard Precautions

Requirement: The program is required to have all the required items in the first aid kit.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program's first aid kit did not contain appropriate materials 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 and Field Trip Procedures

Requirement: The program is required to take all required safety and health items on trips.

Findings: Requirements regarding routine and/or field trips were discussed during the inspection.

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Orientation Training & Whistle Blower Protection

Requirement: The program is required to have staff complete the online staff orientation training. Additionally, the training must be completed before they are permitted to have sole responsibility of children.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the employee's orientation is not complete 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: 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.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined staff have not completed health and safety training(s) 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: 09 Children's Files

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

Requirement: The program is required to have complete child immunization records on file.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined child's immunization records were not on file or updated annually 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: 10 Written Policies & Procedures

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

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

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program's policies and procedures handbook does not contain all items 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

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: 5180:2-12-02 License Visible	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The license was in a location visible to parents as required.

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 1/16/27.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Qualifications	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The administrator has until next annual inspection to complete the rules review course.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/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: 5180:2-12-08 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: 5180:2-12-09 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 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
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Outdoor play was observed for the Toddler, PS and SA group(s).

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Outdoor equipment was viewed to be safe and

		free of rust, sharp points, and other hazards.

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
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: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cleaning supplies were viewed stored out of the reach of children.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The environment, furniture, materials, and equipment were kept in a sanitary condition at all times.

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 - Driver Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The driver(s) had completed the required DCY 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(s), using the DCY 1230 “Vehicle Inspection Report” form, was verified and dated 10/12/26.

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 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: 5180:2-12-15 Child Health 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	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 Outdoor Play	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Outdoor play was observed for the Toddler, PS, and SA group(s).

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Staff/child ratios observed during the inspection surpassed those required by the rule.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Child Care Staff Members were supervising the children and were able to intervene as needed.
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	Documenting Statement: School children were observed running errands, using the restroom, or engaging in short term activities under proper supervision.

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: 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: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate child guidance and behavior management techniques and practices were observed being used during the inspection.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal Preparation and Nutritional Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The food offered at meal time to the [infants; toddlers] was developmentally appropriate and did not pose a choking hazard.

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	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
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
5180:2-12-24 Swimming and Water Safety Requirements	Not Applicable	

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Staff Immunization Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All employees had immunization records or exemption documentation on file.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-02 Current Information	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program had current information entered in the Ohio Statewide Licensing System.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-02 Amendments to the License	Not Applicable	

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 Enrollment Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: At the time of the inspection, a system to ensure children's enrollment records were updated annually was being utilized.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Record Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: At the time of the inspection, a system to ensure children's records were kept on file for one year was being utilized.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All employees had tuberculosis (TB) screenings and immunization records on file.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
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 - Safe Environment and Practices	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All cribs were labeled with the assigned infant's name.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Specialized Diets	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Special diets provided by the program were documented as required.

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 and toddler room(s).

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

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Documentation	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program had complete written documentation for administering medication or food supplements.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Storage	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Medication was stored in the administrator's office.