

Center Complaint Inspection Summary 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 Character Academy Early Learning Center	Program Number 2190020864	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 9718 Buckeye Road Unit 5 Cleveland OH 44104		County CUYAHOGA

Inspection Information				
Inspection Type Complaint			Inspection Scope Partial	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Reviewer(s) RENADA FITCH		Inspection Day 03/24/2025	Begin Time 11:00 AM	End Time 11:45 AM
Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified 14	No. Rules with Non-compliances 9	No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk 4	No. Low Risk 5

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection			
Group	Age Group/Range	Ratio Observed	Comment
Whole Center	0 to < 12 months	1 to 11	ratio observed out

Complaint Allegations

If a program disagrees with a licensing finding, the program may request a review of the finding(s). Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-12-03 and 5101:2-13-03 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.

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio

Code: The program is required to maintain the appropriate staff to child ratio for each group served.

Allegation: It was alleged that the program was out of ratio.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, a ratio of 1 child care staff member(s) for 11 children was determined to have occurred for the program when the situation in number(s) 4 below occurred:

1. A child care staff member stepped out of the room.
2. A child care staff member had not arrived at work on time.
3. Children were present who were not scheduled to be there.
4. A child care staff member was unable to work.
5. A child was injured in that group.
6. A child arrived in the group before a second staff member was scheduled to arrive with the group.
7. Two groups were combined, and the program did not follow the ratio for the youngest child in the group.
8. A child was transitioning to the next older age group, and the program did not follow the ratio for the youngest child in the group.
9. Ratio was doubled for more than two hours while children were napping.
10. Ratio was doubled while children were napping for a group that included at least one infant.
11. Ratio was doubled while children were napping and there were not enough staff members in the building to meet staff/child ratio.
12. Ratio was doubled in the school age group to allow access to the program, however, the program does not serve only school age children.
13. Both child care staff members did not have a working communication device when one staff member left the group to allow access to the school age only program.
14. The child care staff member did not return to the group after allowing access to the school age only program.
15. Other [].

Additional child care staff members must be hired or current child care staff members must be rescheduled to maintain compliance. 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.

Risk Level: Moderate

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/27/2025

Domain:02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

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

Code: The program is required to follow the cleaning schedule for equipment.

Allegation: It was alleged that the microwave used to heat food for the children was unclean.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that the program was not providing a clean and healthy environment, furniture, materials and equipment as required by Appendix A, as noted in number(s) 16 below:

1. Item(s) soiled with blood or bodily fluids were not cleaned/sanitized immediately.
2. Blankets/sheets were not cleaned weekly, when soiled, or before use by another child.
3. Children's individual blankets and belongings were stored in an unsanitary manner.
4. Bottles, bottle caps, nipples and other equipment used for bottle feeding were not cleaned and sanitized in a dishwasher or by washing, rinsing, and boiling for one minute.
5. Carpets were not vacuumed weekly or cleaned when soiled.
6. Changing table/pad was not sanitized after each use or cleaned when visibly soiled.
7. Reusable cloths were not being washed daily or when visibly soiled.
8. Cots/Pads/Mats were not cleaned and sanitized before assigning to a different child, when used by a sick child, when soiled or at least every three months.
9. Cribs were not cleaned and sanitized monthly, or when soiled, or before use by another child.
10. Diaper Receptacles were not cleaned and sanitized daily or more frequently as needed to eliminate odor.
11. Dishes/Cups/Silverware were not cleaned and sanitized after each use.
12. Water Containers were not labeled with the child's name, or were not cleaned and sanitized before use again on another day.
13. Dividers were not cleaned when visibly soiled.
14. Dress up clothes and hats (dramatic play) were not cleaned monthly or when soiled.
15. Floors were not cleaned weekly or when soiled.
16. The food prep area (microwave), including sinks, were not cleaned before and after preparing food (including bottle preparation) or between preparing raw or cooked food.
17. Potty chairs were not cleaned after each use, rinsed with water, cleaned and sanitized or contents were not emptied into a toilet.
18. Food tables, highchair trays were not cleaned before and after each use.
19. Tables used for play were not cleaned when visibly soiled or sanitized daily.
20. Toilet bowls were not cleaned when visibly soiled or sanitized weekly.
21. Toilet seat(s), handle(s) and hand washing sink(s) were not cleaned when visibly soiled or sanitized daily.
22. Mouthed toys were not cleaned and sanitized after each child's use.
23. Toys, other than those mouthed by children, were not cleaned monthly or when visibly soiled.
24. Washable furniture, including fabrics on infant equipment, were not cleaned weekly or when soiled.
25. Upholstered furniture was not steam cleaned when soiled.
26. Slip covers were not washed at least every six months or when soiled.
27. Wastebaskets/rinse buckets, including lids, were not being emptied daily or cleaned and sanitized when visibly soiled.
28. The manufacturer's directions for the cleaning product were not followed.
29. The solution used for sanitizing was not a commercial product registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a sanitizer.
30. Other [].

Furniture, materials and equipment must be maintained according to the cleaning and sanitizing schedule in Appendix A to this rule. 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 required at this time.

Risk Level: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/27/2025

Serious Risk Non-Compliances

No Additional Serious Risk Non-Compliances were observed during this inspection

Moderate Risk Non-Compliances**Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision**

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio

Code: The program is required to have a second employee present, and used based on the qualifications they meet, when seven or more children are present.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that the program did not meet the rule requirement as noted in number(s) 1 below:

1. The program did not have a second employee or Child Care Staff Member present when required;
2. The program was using a second Child Care Staff Member who was not able to meet this criteria as defined in the rule.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/27/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision

Code: The program staff is required to supervise children in their assigned group by sight and hearing. Supervision includes being near enough to respond and reach children immediately and protecting them from harm.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that children were left unattended while inside the program as noted in number(s) 2below:

1. Child(ren) were left unattended once.
2. Child(ren) were left unattended more than once.
3. Child(ren) left the group and were unattended.
4. Child care staff were using a baby monitor to supervise children.
5. Child care staff were using a walkie talkie to supervise children.
6. Child care staff were using mirrors to view children in another room.
7. Child care staff were using a video camera instead of physically being present in the room.
8. Other [].

Children must be supervised and within sight and hearing of a child care staff member at all times. 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: 04/27/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance

Code: The program staff shall use developmentally appropriate techniques when managing children's behavior. Corporal punishment is prohibited, as well as any cruel, harsh, unusual or extreme techniques.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that a Child Care Staff Member had used the inappropriate techniques in number(s) 3 below when managing unacceptable behavior in children:

1. Utilize cruel, harsh, unusual, or extreme techniques;
2. Utilize any form of corporal punishment;
3. Delegate children to manage or discipline other children;
4. Use physical restraints on a child;
5. Restrain a child by prone restraint or any means other than holding children for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so that the children may regain control;
6. Place children in a locked room or confine children in any enclosed area;
7. Confine children to equipment such as cribs or highchairs;
8. Humiliate, threaten or frighten children;
9. Subject children to profane language or verbal abuse;
10. Make derogatory or sarcastic remarks about children or their families;
11. Punish children for failure to eat or sleep or for toileting accidents;
12. Withhold any food (including snacks and treats), rest or toilet use;
13. Punish an entire group of children due to the unacceptable behavior of one or a few;
14. Isolate and restrict children from all activities for an extended period of time.

Child Care Staff Members and other employees must always use appropriate guidance and management methods with children. 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: 04/27/2025

Low Risk Non-Compliances**Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision**

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records

Code: The program is required to maintain a record of the arrival and departure of each child. The program is also required to retain the original attendance record at the center for a period of one year.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program did not meet the requirements for keeping an attendance record as listed in number(s) 2 below:

1. No attendance record was being maintained.
2. The attendance record was not being consistently completed.
3. The record did not include the name of at least one child.
4. The record did not include the birth date of at least one child.
5. The record did not include the assigned group.
6. The record did not include the child's weekly schedule.
7. The record did not include the time (hours and minutes) of each child's arrival and departure to the program, including transportation by the program.
8. The original attendance record was not kept at the program for a period of one year.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/27/2025

Domain:02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Equipment

Code: The program is required to use equipment, that is safe and hazard free, according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Fans, air conditioners, heat pumps, and space heaters must be inaccessible to children. The program is required to refrain from using trampolines, ball pits and inflatable equipment intended for climbing and bouncing, including but not limited to slides and bounce houses.

Findings: During the inspection, equipment was determined to be unsafe, hazardous to children, or in need of repair as noted in number(s) 3 below:

1. Manufacturer's guidelines for the [] were not followed in that [].
2. The straps were missing on the [].
3. The straps were attached, but were not used on the highchairs.
4. The straps were attached and were used, but were not used in a safe manner.
5. The equipment had sharp points or corners.
6. The equipment had splinters.
7. The equipment had protruding nails.
8. The equipment had loose or rusty parts.
9. The equipment had paint which contains lead or other poisonous materials.
10. The equipment had hazardous features.
11. A fan was unstable and could easily tip over.
12. A fan had openings a finger could enter.
13. The pipes from the heat pump felt hot to the touch
14. A space heater felt hot to the touch
15. The position of a space heater was a tripping hazard
16. The air conditioning unit was not enclosed and was accessible to children on the playground.
17. A ball pit, trampoline, inflatable bounce house, inflatable slide, or inflatable equipment used for climbing and bouncing was used.
18. Other [].

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/27/2025

Domain:05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal and Snack Requirements

Code: The program is required to refrain from using televisions, computers, and other screens during meals and snacks.

Findings: During the inspection it was determined that television was on during meals and snacks. 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: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Daily Care

Code: The program is required to provide a daily written record for each infant in care to the parents when picking up the infant each day.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that the written record used to document infant routines and activities did not meet the requirements as noted in number(s) 1 below:

1. A daily written record was not completed/ provided to parents for each infant.
2. Food intake was missing.
3. Sleeping patterns was missing.
4. Times and results of diaper changes was missing.
5. Information about daily activities was missing.

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.