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 Lifesteps Childcare LLC	Program Number 2240030998	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 2345 Demorest Rd Grovecity OH 43123		County FRANKLIN

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 10/08/2026	Begin Time 9:30 AM	End Time 12:40 PM	Reviewer: Sara Goke

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 67	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 15		No. Requirements Compliant 46
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 3	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 15	No. Technical Assistance Provided 1

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)		6	0	6
Young Toddler		0	0	0
Total Under 2 ½ Years	14	6	0	6
Older Toddler		11	0	11
Preschool		9	0	9
School Age		0	0	0
Total Capacity/Enrollment	61	20	0	26

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 6	Out of Compliance	9:30am
Infant	0 to < 12 months	2 to 6	In Compliance	12:15pm
Toddler	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 11	In Compliance	9:30am
Toddler	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 11	In Compliance	12:15pm
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 8	In Compliance	9:30am
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 9	In Compliance	12:15pm

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: **01 Ratio & Supervision**

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio

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

Finding: During the inspection, a ratio of 1 child care staff member(s) for 6 children was determined to have occurred for the infant group.

The following was observed: a child care staff member stepped out of the room.

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.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **02 Safe & Sanitary Environment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment

Requirement: The program is required to store chemicals and machinery in a place that is inaccessible to children. The program is required to provide an outdoor play area away from machinery in operation.

Finding: During the inspection, a potentially hazardous item or toxic substance was used or stored on the counter where children had access to it.

The following was observed: Cleaning agent was accessible to children in the Preschool classroom.

Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that the potentially hazardous substance or item is no longer accessible to children and/or children will not be outside when machinery is in use and a statement that training was provided, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-09 Background Check Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have all staff request background checks as required and receive a DCY 01176 or preliminary approval from DCY prior to allowing an individual to engage in assigned duties or be near children.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that background checks did not meet the requirements of the rule for the person(s) listed on the Employee Record Chart.

The following was observed: the request for a background check for child care was not submitted in the OPR

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the DCY 01176, or a copy of the preliminary approval or a statement that the individual(s) are no longer engaged in assigned duties and are not near children until the preliminary approval has been received, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

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: 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 bags were accessible to children in the Toddler room.

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: 11/07/2026

Domain: **03 Postings & Equipment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment

Requirement: The program is required to have enough equipment for all children in care.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that equipment and materials in the following categories were not provided in sufficient quantities for children in the Toddler classroom, as required: The classroom was missing English Language Arts materials.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **04 Indoor/Outdoor Space**

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have an outdoor play space free from trash and foreign objects.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the outdoor play space was not free of conditions that pose a risk of harm to children.

The following was observed: There were tall weeds.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **05 Health & Safety**

Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal Preparation and Nutritional Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to label individual bottles of water with each child's name.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that individual bottles of water were not labeled with each child's name. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **05 Health & Safety**

Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal Preparation and Nutritional Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to provide food that does not pose as a choking hazard and is appropriate for the age of the children.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the Infant group was offered blueberries and strawberries, which posed a choking hazard because they were not cut into small pieces. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of the rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **05 Health & Safety**

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

Requirement: The program is required to refrain from serving food on bare tables.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that food was served on bare tables for the Toddler group. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **07 Diapering & Infant Care**

Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Bottle and Food Preparation

Requirement: The program is required to safely store, prepare, and serve formula, breast milk, and food.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that open containers of ready to serve food and concentrated formula was not stored appropriately.

The following was observed: An infant was placed to sleep in their crib with a bottle of formula.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Qualifications

Requirement: The program administrator is required to complete the rules course reivew within the defined time period.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the administrator had not completed the required rules review or refresher course provided by this Department for program administrators within the time period defined in this rule.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Child Care Staff Member Educational Requirements

Requirement: The program staff is required to have educational verification on file at the program.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that verification of a high school education for the child care staff member(s) listed on the Employee Record Chart, did not meet the requirements.

The following was observed: verification of completion of a high school education was not on file.

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the education verification, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

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.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that child care staff member(s) did not meet the requirements for completing the online orientation training.

The following was observed: 2 of 8 employees have not completed Staff Orientation.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

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; 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: 11/07/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Staff Immunization Records

Requirement: The program is required to have every employee provide immunization records.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that the immunization records for 5 of 8 employees, including child care staff members, did not meet the requirement.

The following was observed: the immunization records were not on file within the first thirty days from start of employment

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have every employee provide evidence of tuberculosis (TB) screening prior to the first day of employment.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that the tuberculosis (TB) screening for 5 of 8 employees, including child care staff members, did not meet the requirement.

The following was observed: a TB screening was not on file prior to the first day of employment

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

Domain: **10 Written Policies & Procedures**

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

Requirement: The program is required to train child care staff members and employees on the EPRP annually and keep written documentation of the training on-site.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined the program's emergency preparenedness and response plan (EPRP) did not meet the requirement for training child care staff members and employees on the plan annually.

The following was observed: child care staff members and employees were not trained annually; written documentation of the training was not kept on-site.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/07/2026

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: 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; outbreaks, epidemics, or other infectious disease emergencies; loss of power, water, or heat; other threatening situations that may pose a health or safety hazard to the children in the program; emergency numbers for medical, dental, and transport-related emergencies in addition to 9-1-1; a designated safe site where staff and children can safely 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; a designated safe site where staff and children can safely relocate and remain evacuated; 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; making the plan available to all child care staff members and employees

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: 11/07/2026

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: 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
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.

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 12/19/26.

Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Fire Inspection	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Although the program had documentation of a current fire inspection without any uncorrected violations at the time of the licensing inspection, the program did not have the fire inspection completed within 12 months from the date of the last fire inspection without any uncorrected violations. Please ensure that fire inspections are completed in accordance with the rule requirements.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program has obtained a food service exemption status from the local health department.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-05 Denial, Revocation and Suspension	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/Requirements	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Compliant	

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-13 Smoke Free Environment	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Not Applicable	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-14 Transportation - Driver Requirements	Not Applicable	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-14 Transportation - Vehicle Requirements	Not Applicable	

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
5180:2-12-16 Management of Communicable Disease	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-15 Child Health Care Plans	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-17 Daily Outdoor Play	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records	Compliant	

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

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

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-23 Infant Daily Care	Compliant	

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: 5180:2-12-02 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	Compliant	

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

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

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

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

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-20 Cribs - Safe Environment and Practices	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-20 Cribs - Placement	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-22 Specialized Diets	Compliant	

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

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
5180:2-12-25 Medication Documentation	Compliant	

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