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 Little Explorers Childcare and Learning Center	Program Number 2240031223	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 8162 Colerain Ave Cincinnati OH 45239		County HAMILTON

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 11/19/2026	Begin Time 7:55 AM	End Time 12:30 PM	Reviewer: Steffani Roberts
Inspection Date 11/19/2026	Begin Time 7:55 AM	End Time 12:30 PM	Reviewer: Carlie Bennett
Inspection Date 11/23/2026	Begin Time 9:34 AM	End Time 9:37 AM	Reviewer: Carlie Bennett

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 67	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 10		No. Requirements Compliant 51
No. Serious Risk 1	No. Moderate Risk Findings 2	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 7	No. Technical Assistance Provided 5

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		9	0	9
Total Under 2 ½ Years	26	16	0	16
Older Toddler		2	0	2
Preschool		11	0	11
School Age		0	16	16
Total Capacity/Enrollment	61	13	16	45

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Toddler		1 to 9	Out of Compliance	Arrival at 7:55 am (Toddler & Preschool were combined in the Preschool classroom)
Toddler		1 to 6		10:20 am
Toddler		1 to 4		Day 2 @ 9:34 am
Infant		1 to 2	In Compliance	Arrival at 7:55 am (1 infant and 1 toddler)
Infant		2 to 5		10:20 am
Infant		2 to 6		Day 2 @ 9:34am
Preschool		2 to 9		10:20 am
Preschool		1 to 10		Day 2 @ 9:34 am
School Age		1 to 10		Day 2 @ 9:34 am

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.

Domain: **00 License & Approvals**

Rule: 5180:2-12-03 Inspection Requirements

Requirement: The program administrator and owner are required to provide true and accurate information.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the program provided false information, in that the Administrator provided a duplicate medical with the name changed for another staff member. The rule requires the program to provide accurate and truthful information to the Department.

Rule 5180:2-12-03 requires the program to notify parents when a serious risk non-compliance is cited. The notification must inform parents of the serious risk non-compliance and include the Department of Children and Youth website and location of further information regarding the determination. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the written parent notification, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 11/28/2026

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: **00 License & Approvals**

Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Building Department Inspection

Requirement: The program is required to refrain from using space that did not receive building approval and from caring for children in spaces not approved for that age group. The program is required to refrain from using a remodeled or modified space before obtaining building approval. The program is required to maintain building occupancy limitations.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the program was using space for child care in a manner that had not been approved by the Ohio Department of Commerce or the local certified building authority. The following condition(s) were observed: care was provided to 3 children less than two and one-half years of age which violated the program's building code limitation in that, the Preschool Classroom only allows for 13 children with the ages 2.5 years to 12 years old.

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes building approval for use of this space, a written statement that the building occupancy limitations are being maintained, or a written statement that it is no longer being used, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/23/2026

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 9 children was determined to have occurred for the Toddler & Preschool group.

The following was observed: two groups were combined, and the program did not follow the ratio for the youngest child in the group.

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: 12/23/2026

Other Non-Compliances

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

Domain: **02 Safe & Sanitary Environment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Equipment and Environment

Requirement: The program is required to provide enough cots or mats for each child in attendance to be assigned their individual cot/mat. Cots and mats must be firm, resilient, and in good condition.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that cots or mats did not meet the requirements.

The following was observed: A child was sleeping on a couch/chair

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/23/2026

Domain: **02 Safe & Sanitary Environment**

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Equipment

Requirement: 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.

Finding: During the inspection, equipment was determined to be unsafe, hazardous to children, or in need of repair.

The following was observed: the straps were attached, but were not used on the high chairs and infant table seats.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/23/2026

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: 12/23/2026

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: Broken bowling pins on playground causing sharp edges.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/23/2026

Domain: **05 Health & Safety**

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

Requirement: The program is required to post the current weekly menu in a noticeable location that is accessible to parents and note any substitutions at the time of the change.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the program's weekly menu did not meet the requirement .

The following was observed: at least one item on menu did not match what was served.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/23/2026

Domain: **07 Diapering & Infant Care**

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

Requirement: The program staff is required to label bottles containing formula or breast milk.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that bottles containing formula/milk for a particular infant were not labeled with the child's name and date of preparation. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/23/2026

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: weather emergencies and natural disasters, including severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, major snowfall, blizzards, ice storms, or earthquakes; emergency or evacuation and relocation procedures due to bomb threats; or due to threats of violence which include active shooter, bioterrorism, or terrorism; a designated safe site where staff and children can safely relocate and remain when evacuated; procedures for assisting toddlers; 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

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.

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: 08 Staff Files

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

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

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Findings: During the inspection, it was determined verification of staff immunization was not on file 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: 5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements

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

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined verification of TB screening was not on file 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
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
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 food service license was observed posted. Following is the audit number and date of expiration: VWAR-DSGQP7 & 3/1/2027.
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The off-site food processing establishment's current Ohio Department of Agriculture registration information was observed during the inspection.

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

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
5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Not Applicable	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Not Applicable	

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

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

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
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.

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 DCY 08087 "Communicable Disease Chart" was posted and was readily available to staff and parents.

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

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 Daily Schedule	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Daily schedules were observed posted.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment	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
5180:2-12-22 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
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
5180:2-12-15 Child Record Requirements	Compliant	

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

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	