Department of Children & Youth

Complaint Inspection Summary 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 River Ferns Fairfield	Program Number 2250031644	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 8750 Holden Blvd Fairfield OH 45014		County BUTLER

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Complaint	Inspection Scope Partial	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 11/02/2026	Begin Time 3:00 PM	End Time 4:00 PM	Reviewer: Steffani Roberts

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 5	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 3		No. Requirements Compliant 2
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 1	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 2	No. Technical Assistance Provided 0

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Tigers	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 6		@3:05 pm
Flamingos/Pandas	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 12		@ 3:05 pm
Flamingos/Eagles/Sharks	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 26		@ 3:45 pm
Flamingos/Eagles/Sharks	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 13		@ 3:05 pm
Gators	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 8		@ 3:05 pm

Caterpillars/Turtles/Butterflies/Giraffes	0 to < 12 months	2 to 7		@ 3:05 pm

Complaint Allegations

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.

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: Ratio is not being maintained.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, required staff/child ratios were not maintained for [the same group/different groups] on multiple occasions, as noted below:

The ratio determined for the Gators group was 1 Child Care Staff Member for 8 children, when the youngest child was 2 years 5 months. Additionally, a ratio of 2 Child Care Staff Members for 26 children was determined for the Flamingos/Eagles/Sharks group, when the youngest child was 3 years old.

Additional 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: 12/02/2026

Domain: 01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Group Size
Code: The program is required to maintain the appropriate group size for each group of children served.

Allegation: Group size is too large.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, group size limitations were not maintained for the group of Flamingos/Eagles/Sharks as it was determined there were 26 children grouped together and the youngest child in the group was 3 years old. The group size shall not exceed twice the maximum number of children allowed per Child Care Staff Member. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/02/2026

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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 an increased 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: **01 Ratio & Supervision**
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records
Requirement: The program is required to have a method for tracking the children in each group. The tracking method must be updated throughout the day and kept with the group at all times.
Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the method for tracking children in each group did not meet the requirements of the rule.

The following was observed: Some children were not checked in upon arrival.

Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.
Corrective Action Plan Due: 12/02/2026