Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Center Licensing Inspection Full 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 EARLY STEPS LEARNING CENTER	Program Number 000000306124		Program Type Child Care Center
Address 27027 CHARDON ROAD RICHMOND HTS OH 44143			County CUYAHOGA
Building Approval Date 06/27/2003	Use Group/Code E	Occupancy Limit	Maximum Under 2 ½
Fire Inspection Approval Date 11/26/2025	Food Service Risk Level Level III		

Inspection Information		
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 02/24/2026	Begin Time 8:15 AM	End Time 1:31 PM
Reviewer: Jennifer Bartlebaugh		

Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified	No. Rules with Non-compliances	No. Serious Risk	No. Moderate Risk	No. Low Risk
55	8	0	0	8

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)		5	0	5
Young Toddler		5	0	5
Total Under 2 ½ Years	40	10	0	10
Older Toddler		7	0	7
Preschool		25	0	25
School Age		16	0	16
Total Capacity/Enrollment	140	48	0	58

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection			
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Comment**

Preschool-Discovery Kids	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 11	Arrival Ratio- 8:15AM
Preschool-Discovery Kids	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 20	Second Ratio- Nap- 12:30PM
School-age- Home Room Club	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 3	Arrival Ratio- 8:15AM
School-age- Home Room Club	School-Age to < 11 years	0 to 0	Second Ratio- 12:30PM Off-site at school
Infant- First Steps	Mixed Age Group	1 to 4	Arriva Ratio- 8:30AM
Infant- First Steps	Mixed Age Group	1 to 4	Second Ratio- Nap- 11:30PM
Toddlers- Early Explorers	Mixed Age Group	1 to 6	Arrival Ratio- 8:30AM
Toddlers- Early Explorers	Mixed Age Group	1 to 10	Second Ratio- Nap- 11:30AM

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 and 5180:2-13-03 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.

Serious Risk Non-Compliances

No Serious Risk Non-Compliances were observed during this inspection

Moderate Risk Non-Compliances

No Moderate Risk Non-Compliances were observed during this inspection

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Low Risk Non-Compliances

Domain: 01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records
Code: 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 as noted in number 5 below:

1. There was no method in place; (Infant & Toddler Classroom)
2. The method did not include each child's name;
3. The method did not include each child's date of birth;
4. The tracking method did not remain with the group at all times;
5. The tracking method was not updated throughout the day as children entered or left the group.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/26/2026

Domain: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment
Code: The program is required to provide equipment and materials that are easy to clean.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that at least one piece of equipment, furnishings, or material at the program was not constructed of materials to facilitate cleaning as noted in number 1 below:

1. The material had a tear- Blue couch in the preschool classroom and climber in the infant room.
2. The material was not washable.
3. The material was porous.

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4. The surface was cracked.
5. The surface was repaired, but in a manner that still did not facilitate cleaning.
6. Other [ ].

Equipment, furnishings, and furniture shall be constructed of materials to facilitate cleaning. 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: 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.

Finding: During the inspection, equipment was determined to be unsafe, hazardous to children, or in need of repair as noted in number 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 diaper changing table. (Infant Room)
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: 03/26/2026

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Domain: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment
Code: 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 as noted in number 6 below:

1. Surge protectors/outlets did not have childproof receptacle covers.
2. Open pull cords that are not closed loop.
3. Toys or other items small enough to be swallowed were present in the space where infants and/or toddlers were in care.
4. Electrical/extension cords attached to an object that would not likely result in a severe injury if pulled.
5. Stacked chairs.
6. Employee purse was in an unlocked cabinet and accessible to preschool children.
7. Diaper bags.
8. Television not securely anchored.
9. Small or lightweight pieces of shelving units are not securely anchored to the wall.
10. Smoke detector needing batteries replaced.
11. An area rug did not have a nonskid backing.
12. An area rug presented a tripping hazard.
13. A floor surface that was unsafe in that [ ].
14. No platform was provided for the sink or toilet in the [ ] classroom.
15. The platform provided for the sink or toilet in the [ ] classroom was not sturdy.
16. The platform provided for the sink or toilet in the [ ] classroom posed a safety hazard in that [ ].
17. Telephone cords.
18. Staff member stepped over a barrier/gate while holding a child.
19. Emergency exits were blocked by the following classroom furniture: [ ].
20. A mercury thermometer was being used to take a child's temperature.
21. Methods of ventilation used did not provide protection from rodents, insects, or other hazards.
22. Other [ ].

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: 03/26/2026

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Domain: 07 Diapering & Infant Care

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cribs
Code: The program is required to provide cribs with mattresses in good condition and sheets that are not too large or too small for the crib.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that sheets, mattresses and/or mattress covers did not meet the rule requirement as noted in number 2 below:

1. At least one crib did not have a sheet.
2. At least one sheet was too large.
3. At least one sheet was too small.
4. At least one sheet was torn.
5. The mattress was not at least one and one-half inches thick.
6. The mattress was not firm.
7. There was space between the mattress and the sides and end panels of the crib which exceeded one and one-half inches.
8. The mattress cover was not waterproof.
9. The mattress cover was torn.
10. Other: [ ].

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/26/2026

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-10 Professional Development Requirements
Code: The program is required to ensure child care staff members, including substitutes used more than ninety days annually, obtain at least 6 hours of professional development each state fiscal year.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that at least one child care staff member did not meet the annual professional development requirement as noted in number 1 below:

1. The child care staff member(s) had not completed at least six hours of professional development.
2. Documentation did not demonstrate the person who provided the training met the trainer qualifications as stated in the rule.
3. Training topic did not meet the requirements listed in appendix A of this rule.
4. Documentation of training did not meet the requirements of this rule.
5. The substitute(s) had been used more than ninety days annually between July first and June thirtieth and had not completed at least six hours of professional development
6. Other [ ].

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/26/2026

Domain: 09 Children's Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Medical and Enrollment Records
Code: The program is required to use the updated JFS 01234 "Child Enrollment and Health Information For Child Care" .

Finding: In review of 25% of the children's records, it was determined that information had not been secured from the parent/guardian on the JFS 01234 "Child Enrollment and Health Information For Child Care", as required, for the items in number(s) 10, 13 below.

1. No enrollment form was completed for at least one child
2. The current JFS 01234 was not completed for at least one child
3. Complete child information
4. Complete parent information
5. Complete emergency contact information
6. Complete physician information
7. Information regarding the parent list
8. Health information
9. Additional information for all boxes checked "yes"
10. Emergency transportation information
11. Parent/guardian's signature
12. Diapering Statement
13. Acknowledgement of Policies and Procedures
14. Enrollment form for at least one child was not updated by either the parent or the administrator
15. Enrollment form for at least one child was not signed by the administrator
16. Other [ ]

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: 10 Written Policies & Procedures

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Written Disaster Plan

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

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined the program's written disaster plan did not meet the requirement for training child care staff members and employees on the plan annually as noted in number 1 below:

1. Not all child care staff members and employees were trained annually.
2. Written documentation of the training was not kept on file.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/26/2026

Rules In-Compliance/Not Verified

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

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 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 11/26/2026.

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- FSO-18-18517- Level III and date of expiration March 1, 2026.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Qualifications	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The administrator has completed the rules review course.

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Written Program Policies and Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The written policies and procedures reviewed on the day of the inspection were verified as complete. Previously verified their handbook at the Wickliff location site.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Medical Statement	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All employees had current medical statements on file.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-10 Health Training 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
5180:2-12-11 Indoor Space Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Separation of Children Under 2 1/2 Years	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The quarterly playground inspections were completed and documented, as required. The most recent inspection report form was dated 11/6/2025.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Not Verified	Documenting Statement: The outdoor play space and equipment were not viewed during this inspection due to snow covering; however, the requirements were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Not Verified	Documenting Statement: The protective surfaces under the outdoor equipment were not viewed during this inspection due to snow covering; however, the requirements were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Staff and children were observed washing hands as required by the rule.
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: A sink with running water was located in the classrooms.

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The driver(s) had current and valid training in first aid, management of communicable disease, and CPR.

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 ODJFS 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 JFS 01230 "Vehicle Inspection Report For Child Care Centers" form, were verified and dated 10/28/2025 and a re-inspection on 11/13/2025 for Vehicle 1- Chevrolet- License Number GKD7199 and VIN- 1GBHG31C981162907. Vehicle 2 - Chevrolet- License Number- GHJ2283 and VIN Number- 1GBOG2BA7E1163330 was inspected on 6/6/2025.

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Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Medical/Physical 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: 5180:2-12-15 Medical/Physical Care Plans	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding caring for children with a specific health condition were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Medical, Dental, and General Emergency Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: On the day of the inspection, the complete prescribed JFS 01242 "Medical, Dental, and General Emergency Plan For Child Care" were posted in the program as required.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 First Aid/Standard Precautions	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding first aid kits and standard precaution procedures were discussed. Tooth saver was expired and needs replaced on vehicle first aid kit.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Management of Communicable Disease	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The JFS 08087 "Communicable Disease Chart" was posted and was readily available to staff and parents.
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Management of Communicable Disease	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, documentation required by rule and strategies to maintain compliance were discussed with program staff. The following resources were provided: Provided the program a copy of the new communicable disease chart.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The requirements for completing JFS 01299 "Incident/Injury Report For Child Care" reports were discussed during the inspection.

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 Schedule	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Daily schedules were observed posted.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-18 Group Size	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Outdoor Play	Not Verified	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding daily outdoor play were discussed.

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: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The Appendix A “Staff/Child Ratios, Age Grouping and Maximum Group Size” was posted in a noticeable area at the program as required.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Staff/child ratios were doubled during nap time in the toddler classroom.

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The rest area had adequate lighting, which allowed for the visual supervision of children.
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cots were placed appropriately and safely during nap time.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, child care staff were observed meeting the basic needs of all children assigned to the group.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program staff were observed using the positive child guidance techniques and practices in number 2, 4, 6 below. 1. Setting clear limits. 2. Redirecting to an appropriate activity. 3. Showing positive alternatives. 4. Modeling the desired behavior. 5. Reinforcing appropriate behavior. 6. Encouraging children to control their own behavior, cooperate with others and solve problems by talking. 7. Separation from the situation (no more than one minute per each year of the child's age; not to be used with infants). Upon return to the activity, the reason for the separation and expected behavior were discussed with the child. 8. Holding a child for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so that the child may regain self-control.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal and Snack Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program served the following- Breakfast- Mini bagel, milk, pears and lunch was chicken fries, corn, apples, milk, crackers.
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal and Snack Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The menu was posted for parents and staff to visible see.

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Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-22 Safe Food Handling/Storage	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Fluid Milk Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All infants/toddlers were served formula/milk in sufficient amounts to meet the nutritional requirements.

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

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: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Bottle and Food Preparation	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All bottles were warmed in accordance with the rule in a bottle warmer.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate diaper changing procedures were observed during the inspection in the infant and toddler classrooms.
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding diapering and toilet training were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Administration	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Medication was stored in Ziploc bag with child's name, medical care plan and medication.