Department of Children & Youth

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 EARLY STEPS LEARNING CENTER	Program Number 000000306124	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 27027 CHARDON ROAD RICHMOND HTS OH 44143		County CUYAHOGA

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Complaint		Inspection Scope Partial	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Reviewer(s) Jennifer Bartlebaugh	Inspection Day 03/09/2026	Begin Time 12:30 PM	End Time 2:00 PM

Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified	No. Rules with Non-compliances	No. Serious Risk	No. Moderate Risk	No. Low Risk
7	4	0	0	4

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection			
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Comment**
Infants	0 to < 12 months	1 to 4	Arrival Ratio- 12:30PM- Nap
Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 9	Arrival Ratio- 12:30PM- Nap
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 21	Arrival Ratio- 12:30PM- Nap
School-age	School-Age to < 11 years	0 to 0	Arrival Ratio- 12:30PM School-agers Off-site

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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: 5180:2-12-19 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 including responding to the child's basic needs and protecting them from harm.

Allegation: The alleged rule violation was children were not properly being supervised.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that children were not being properly supervised as noted in number 5 below:

1. Child(ren) were not within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member during indoor play.
2. Child(ren) were not within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member during outdoor play.
3. Child(ren) were not within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member more than once.
4. Staff were not physically present in the space and near enough to respond and reach the child(ren) immediately.
5. Other: Child(ren) were not actively supervised, which resulted in an incident/injury.

Children must be supervised according to rule and within both 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.

Risk Level: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/10/2026

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.

Allegation: The alleged rule violation was children were not protected from items or conditions which may threaten their health, safety or well-being.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: 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 22 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.

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6. Employee(s) purse(s).
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: Toddler had access to thumbtacks.

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: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/10/2026

Domain:05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting
Code: The program is required to complete the JFS 01299 "Incident/Injury Report" for injuries and incidents at the program, provide a copy to the person who picks the child up on the day of the incident, and retain a copy of the form onsite at the program for one year.

Allegation: The alleged rule violation was the program did not meet the requirements for completing JFS01299 "Incident/Injury when an unusual or unexpected incident occurred, which could of jeopardize the safety of a child or employee.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: In review of the records, it was determined the program did not meet the requirements for completing a JFS 01299 "Incident/Injury Report" as noted in number 4 & 5 below:

1. The JFS 01299 was not completed when a child became ill or received an injury which required first aid treatment.
2.The JFS 01299 was not completed when a child was transported to a source for emergency assistance.
3. The JFS 01299 was not completed when a child received a bump or blow to the head.
4. The JFS 01299 was not completed when an unusual or unexpected incident which jeopardized the safety of a child or employee of a program.
5. The parent or a person picking up the child did not receive the JFS 01299 on the day of the incident.
6. The program information (program name, number, address) was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
7. Child's name was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
8. Child's birthdate was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
9. Name of person(s) responsible for the child at the time of the incident was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
10. Number of children present in the group at the time of the incident was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
11. Date and/or time of the incident was incomplete on the JFS 01299.

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12. Whether or not parents were contacted was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
13. Complete summary of the incident was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
14. Accurate summary of the incident was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
15. Name and/or signature of the person completing the form was incomplete on the JFS 01299.
16. The JFS 01299 was not kept on file at the program for at least one year.
17. 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 required at this time.

Risk Level: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/24/2026

Summary of Additional Non-Compliances

Serious Risk Non-Compliances

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

Moderate Risk Non-Compliances

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

Low Risk Non-Compliances

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Domain:04 Indoor/Outdoor Space

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment
Code: The program is required to provide equipment that does not pose a safety risk and must follow the manufacturer's guidelines for assembling, installing and using the equipment.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that outdoor play equipment was unsafe or not used as intended as noted in number(s) 1, 2, 3, 20 below:

1. There was rust exposed on older playground equipment.
2. There were protruding border stakes.
3. There were cracks. (Cracked seats on quad spring equipment in older kids' playground)
4. There were holes.
5. There was splintering wood.
6. There were sharp edges or points.
7. There were lead hazards.
8. There were toxic substances.
9. There were tripping hazards.
10. There was chipped and/or peeling paint.
11. The sandbox was not covered when the program was closed or during non-daylight hours.
12. Outdoor equipment, [ ] was not developmentally appropriate.
13. Outdoor equipment, [ ], was placed in the main traffic pattern.
14. Outdoor play equipment, [ ], was positioned too closely together, posing a risk of injury if a child were to fall from one piece of equipment into another.
15. Outdoor equipment, [ ], was not securely anchored but did not present a risk of imminent danger of the structure collapsing when children are using the equipment
16. Outdoor equipment, [ ], was 30 inches or more from the ground and did not have a protective barrier that would prevent a child from falling off this piece of equipment.
17. The manufacturer's guidelines for assembly and installation were not followed for the [ ].
18. Functionally linked equipment was used by preschool-age children and the distance between two adjacent pieces of equipment exceeded 12 inches.
19. Functionally linked equipment was used by school-age children and the distance between two adjacent pieces of equipment exceeded 18 inches.
20. Other - Circle riding equipment in older kids' playground was missing pedals.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 04/10/2026