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 LIGHT THE WAY CHILD CARE	Program Number 000000500272	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 340 TOLEDO ST ELMORE OH 43416		County OTTAWA

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 08/18/2026	Begin Time 10:00 AM	End Time 12:15 PM	Reviewer: Maribeth Tercha

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 67	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 4		No. Requirements Compliant 57
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 1	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 3	No. Technical Assistance Provided 4

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)		1	0	1
Young Toddler		2	0	2
Total Under 2 ½ Years	8	3	0	3
Older Toddler		7	0	7
Preschool		10	0	10
School Age		15	0	15
Total Capacity/Enrollment	41	32	0	35

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Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Infants	0 to < 12 months	1 to 3	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 12:00 pm
Infants	0 to < 12 months	1 to 3	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 10:15 am
Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 4	In Compliance	Ratio taken10:15 am
Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 4	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 12:00 pm
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 9	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 12:00 pm
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 9	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 10:15 pm
School age	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 11	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 12:00 pm
School age	School-Age to < 11 years	1 to 11	In Compliance	Ratio taken at 10:15 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.

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: **00 License & Approvals**

Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Fire Inspection

Requirement: The program is required to have all spaces used for child care inspected by the fire department or the state fire marshal's office prior to serving children. The program is required to obtain a fire inspection without any uncorrected violations within 12 months from the date of the last fire inspection. If violations are noted during the inspection, the program is required to have all violations corrected and have the program re-inspected to obtain a completed fire form.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined the program did not meet the requirements for fire inspection.

The following was observed: At least once annually within each twelve months from the date of the last fire inspection report

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes an updated fire inspection without any uncorrected violations, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 09/18/2026

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's personal belongings were in preschool/school age space

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: 09/18/2026

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: After infant diaper change, child did not wash hands

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 09/18/2026

Domain: **04 Indoor/Outdoor Space**

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment

Requirement: 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.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that outdoor play equipment was unsafe or not used as intended.

The following was observed: pieces of equipment need to be assembled, installed and utilized according to manufacturer's guidelines

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 09/18/2026

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.
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.

The following was observed: employee's personal belongings were in preschool/school age space

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: 09/18/2026

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.
Findings:During the inspection, it was determined that handwashing requirements were not followed as required in rule.

The following was observed: After infant diaper change, child did not wash hands

Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.
Corrective Action Plan Due: 09/18/2026

Domain: **04 Indoor/Outdoor Space**
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment
Requirement: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.

The following was observed: pieces of equipment need to be assembled, installed and utilized according to manufacturer's guidelines

Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.
Corrective Action Plan Due: 09/18/2026

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: 03 Postings & Equipment

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Emergency Postings

Requirement: The program is required to post emergency phone numbers.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined emergency numbers are not posted in all spaces used by children 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: 05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 First Aid/Standard Precautions

Requirement: The program is required to have the appropriate number of first aid kits for the program.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program did not appropriately store the first aid kit 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: 10 Written Policies & Procedures

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Written Program Policies and Procedures

Requirement: The program administrator is required to maintain the parent handbook.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the administrator is not maintaining the parent handbook 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

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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
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: 5180:2-12-02 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 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The food service license was observed posted. Following is the audit number and date of expiration: 405 and 3/1/2027

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

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/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
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 Professional Development Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: At the time of the inspection, all child care staff members had completed the required amount of professional development training.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Indoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The restrooms are used exclusively by the program.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding outdoor space were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding outdoor play fall zones were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Equipment was observed to be in good condition.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the equipment was observed clean and in good repair.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program uses the DCY sample trip permission form for routine/field trips to secure written permission from parents or guardians.
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding transportation and field trip procedures were discussed.

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 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
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding reporting incidents and injuries were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Health Care Plans	Compliant	Documenting Statement: At the time of the inspection, there were no children currently enrolled who had health conditions.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding the emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) were discussed.

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
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 Outdoor Play	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Outdoor play was observed for the preschool and school age groups

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, enough Child Care Staff

		Members were employed to meet the staff/child ratios.
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: 5180:2-12-18 Group Size	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The group sizes observed on the day of the inspection were in compliance.

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: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, attendance records were reviewed. Child Care Staff Members were viewed recording the attendance for each child upon arrival and departure. All attendance records met the requirements of the rule and were kept with the group at all times.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate child guidance and behavior management techniques and practices were observed being used during the inspection.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal Preparation and Nutritional Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The menu was posted in kitchen

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

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Daily Care	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate daily written records for all infants were viewed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Safe Food Handling/Storage	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Food was stored in a safe and sanitary manner.

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
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: 5180:2-12-08 Staff Immunization Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding staff immunization records were discussed.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Practices	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding sleeping and napping were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Immunization Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding children's immunization records were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Enrollment Records	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding children's enrollments forms were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Record Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding confidentiality, availability and access, and retention of children's records were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding staff TB screening requirements were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cots were placed appropriately and safely during nap time.

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: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding cribs were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Specialized Diets	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding specialized diets were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training - Practices	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: 5180:2-12-23 2026 Diapering and Toilet Training - Supplies	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 2026 Medication Administration Practices	Compliant	Documenting Statement: There were no children on medication at the time of the inspection; however, the method of storage and practices for the administration were reviewed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 2026 Medication Documentation	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding administering medication, topical products and medical foods were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-25 2026 Medication Storage	Not Applicable	