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 ARK Learning and Arts Academy	Program Number 000000501543	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 400 WAYNE ST DEFIANCE OH 43512		County DEFIANCE

Building Approval Date	Use Group/Code	Occupancy Limit	Maximum Under 2 ½
05/04/2009	BB 303 (pre 1970)	49	0
Fire Inspection Approval Date 03/21/2018	Food Service Risk Level Exempt		

Inspection Information		
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 12/10/2025	Begin Time 9:45 AM	End Time 12:50 PM
Reviewer: Beverly Sutter		

Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified	No. Rules with Non-compliances	No. Serious Risk	No. Moderate Risk	No. Low Risk
58	10	0	1	9

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)		0	0	0
Young Toddler		0	0	0
Total Under 2 ½ Years	0	0	0	0
Older Toddler		0	0	0
Preschool		21	0	21
School Age		0	0	0
Total Capacity/Enrollment	48	21	0	21

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

Preschool 2	4 years to < 5 years	2 to 12	
Preschool 1	3 years to < 4 years	3 to 15	Preschool 1 and 2 combined for guest reader
Preschool 1	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 3	
Preschool 1	3 years to < 4 years	2 to 9	preschool 1 and 2 combined for lunch and nap

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

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-09 Background Check Requirements
Code: The program is required to have all staff request background checks as required and receive a JFS 01176 or preliminary approval from ODJFS prior to allowing an individual to engage in assigned duties or be near children.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that background checks did not meet the requirements of the rule for the person(s) listed on the Employee Record Chart as noted in number 3 below:

1. The request for a background check for child care was not submitted in the OPR.
2. The fingerprints were not submitted electronically according to the process established by BCI.
3. The individual(s) had engaged in assigned duties or were near children and preliminary approval from ODJFS was not on file.
4. Background checks were not updated every five years.

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Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the JFS 01176, or a copy of the preliminary approval or a statement that the individual(s) are no longer engaged in assigned duties and are not near children until the preliminary approval has been received, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 01/09/2026

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 4 below:

1. There was no method in place;
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: 01/09/2026

Domain: 01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping
Code: The program is required to provide sufficient lighting when the children rest, nap, or sleep.

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Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the area used when children rest, nap or sleep was not lighted sufficiently to allow child care staff visual supervision of the children at all times. Technical assistance is provided, please correct this rule noncompliance. A written response for this rule noncompliance is not required at this time.

Domain: 05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Fluid Milk Requirements
Code: The program is required to serve age-appropriate fluid milk or obtain written documentation when serving substitutions for fluid milk.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that required documentation for substitutions for fluid milk was not on file as noted in number 5 below:

1. Written instructions from a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner when infants up to 12 months of age are served anything other than formula or breast milk.
2. Written instructions from a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner when infants and toddlers 12 months of age up to 24 months of age are served anything other than unflavored whole homogenized vitamin D fortified cow's milk, breast milk, or non-cow milk substitution that is nutritionally equivalent to milk.
3. Written instructions from a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner when toddlers and children 24 months of age and older are served anything other than unflavored one per cent milk that is vitamin A and D fortified, unflavored fat free or skim milk that is vitamin A and D fortified, or non-cow milk substitutions that are nutritionally equivalent to milk.
4. Written parental consent for non-cow milk substitutions that are nutritionally equivalent to milk for children 12 months of age and older.
5. The program did not have the type of milk on-site to ensure that all children were served age-appropriate fluid milk.

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: 05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Emergency Drills

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Code: The program is required to complete fire drills, weather drills, and emergency/lockdown drills appropriately.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the required drills were not completed for item number 2 below:

1. Monthly fire drills.
2. Monthly weather emergency drills (March through September).-None for March, April, September 2025.
3. Emergency/lockdown drills in each quarter of the calendar year.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 01/09/2026

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/Requirements
Code: The program administrator is required to maintain current employee records in the Ohio Professional Registry.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined employment records in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) were not created or maintained as noted in number 5 below:

1. At least one administrator, employee or child care staff member (including substitutes) had not created a profile.
2. At least one administrator, employee or child care staff member had not created an employment record for the program on or before their first day of employment.
3. At least one administrator, employee or child care staff member had not updated changes to positions or roles within five calendar days of the change.
4. The administrator had not assigned at least one employee or child care staff member to the program's organization dashboard.
5. At least one individual's schedule was not current.
6. At least one individual's position or role did not include an applicable group assignment.
7. At least one individual's employment had not been end dated.
8. Other: [ ]

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 01/09/2026

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Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Child Care Staff Member Educational Requirements
Code: The program staff is required to have educational verification on file at the program.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that verification of a high school education for the child care staff member(s) listed on the Employee Record Chart, did not meet the requirements as listed in number 1 below:

1. Verification of completion of a high school education was not on file.
2. Documentation was incomplete or not on file for a high school junior or senior who is enrolled in a career-technical program.
3. Documentation was not on file for a high school junior or senior who is also enrolled in a college credit program in child development or early childhood education.
4. Documentation was not on file for a high school junior or senior who is enrolled in a Child Development Associate (CDA) training program.

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the education verification, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 01/09/2026

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-08 Orientation Training & Whistle Blower Protection
Code: The program is required to have staff complete the online staff orientation training. Additionally, the training must be completed before they are permitted to have sole responsibility of children.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that child care staff member(s) did not meet the requirements for completing the online orientation training as noted in number 1 below:

1. The training was not completed within 30 days of starting employment at the program as a child care staff member.
2. Documentation of completing the training after December 31, 2016 was not on file.
3. Completion of the training was not verified in the OPR.
4. A child care staff member had sole responsibility of children and had not completed the online orientation.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 01/09/2026

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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 [ ].

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 01/09/2026

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 numbers 4, 6, 15 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

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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.

Rules In-Compliance/Not Verified

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Written Disaster Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Annual training of the written disaster plan was completed by staff.
Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Written Disaster Plan	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program's written disaster plan was reviewed during the inspection and met the requirements.

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.

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Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Building Department Inspection	Compliant	Documenting Statement: On the day of the inspection, the program was operating in compliance with the current building approval(s).

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 8-14-26.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program has obtained a food service exemption status from the local health department.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Qualifications	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The new administrator, who qualifies with two years of experience as a Child Care Staff Member and has a career pathways level of one, has until 11-18-26 to submit documentation to ODJFS that a career pathways level two has been obtained.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Written Program Policies and Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: No changes have been made to the written policies and procedures since it was last approved by this Department.

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: 5180:2-12-10 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
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The outdoor play area is separated from traffic and other hazards by a fence.
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 10-7-25.

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: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The outdoor play space and equipment were not viewed during this inspection due to snow covering, raining, and muddy conditions; however, the requirements were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The protective surfaces under the outdoor equipment were not viewed during this inspection due to snow covering, raining, and muddy

		conditions; however, the requirements were discussed.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cleaning supplies were viewed stored out of the reach of children.
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All electrical outlets were covered with safety receptacles.
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: All area rugs had nonskid backing.
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: A safe environment was observed during the inspection. Children were protected from items and conditions which threaten their health, safety and well-being.
Rule: 5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The indoor temperature of the program during the inspection was comfortable and met rule compliance.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, it was discussed that blankets were washed weekly.
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: On the day of the inspection, the program provided a clean environment in accordance with Appendix A of this rule, which included the furniture, materials and equipment.
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Cots were cleaned and sanitized.
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: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Trash was stored and emptied daily.

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Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Children were viewed washing their hands, as required by the rule.
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: It was discussed with the staff that hand washing shall occur upon arrival to the program.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Smoke Free Environment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: No smoking was allowed on the premises, and the notice stating that smoking is prohibited was observed posted in a conspicuous place.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The form(s) used by the program for routine and/or field trips were verified to meet the requirements of the rule.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Medical/Physical 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 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 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 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: The program staff stated parents were informed when their child had any exposure to a contagious illness by number 5 below: 1. A posted notice; 2. Verbal communication; 3. A written notice sent home; 4. A note posted on the classroom door; 5. Other: Remind app

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: The following activities were observed: circle time, music time, free play, small group, large motor, individualization.
Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Daily schedules were observed posted.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-18 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: 5180:2-12-17 Daily Outdoor Play	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding daily outdoor play were discussed.

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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: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Staff/child ratios observed during 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: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Child Care Staff Members were supervising the children and were able to intervene as needed.
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, child care staff were observed assisting children throughout the day.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Appropriate child guidance techniques and practices were observed being used during the inspection.
Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program staff were observed using the positive child guidance techniques and practices in numbers 1 and 2 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: Posted menus were current and dated.
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal and Snack Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The menu was posted.
Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Meal and Snack Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Snacks served at the program included foods from two of the four food groups and provided nutritional value in addition to calories.

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-25 Medication Administration	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.