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 Small Steps Learning Center	Program Number 2240031301	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 756 Ohio Pike Cincinnati OH 45245		County CLERMONT

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 07/27/2026	Begin Time 10:35 AM	End Time 12:50 PM	Reviewer: BRIAN CHASTAIN

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 67	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 6		No. Requirements Compliant 54
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 2	No. Other Non-compliance Findings 2	No. Technical Assistance Provided 5

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)		3	0	3
Young Toddler		1	0	1
Total Under 2 ½ Years	70	4	0	4
Older Toddler		3	0	3
Preschool		2	0	2
School Age		11	0	11
Total Capacity/Enrollment	132	16	0	20

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection				
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Compliance**	**Comment**
Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 7	Out of Compliance	Infant & Toddler combined 12:35
Infant	0 to < 12 months	1 to 7	Out of Compliance	Infant & Toddler combined 10:40
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 8	In Compliance	PS & SA combined 12:35
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 8	In Compliance	PS & SA combined 10:40

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

Department of Children & Youth

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: **01 Ratio & Supervision**

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio

Requirement: The program is required to maintain the appropriate staff to child ratio for each group served.

Finding: During the inspection, a ratio of one child care staff member for 7 children was determined to have occurred for the combined infant/toddler group, when child care staff members had not arrived at work.

Additional child care 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.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 08/27/2026

Domain: **09 Children's Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-15 Child Health Care Plans

Requirement: The program is required to have a completed DCY 01236 or equivalent form on file at the program for any child having a health condition and must implement and/or follow instructions on the plan. The program is required to have staff trained to perform the procedures on the form present at the program when the child requiring the procedure is onsite. Only staff who have been trained shall be permitted to perform the procedures listed on the form.

Finding: In review of the children's records, it was determined the program did not meet the requirements for caring for at least one child, indicated on the Children's Records Review, with a condition that requires a DCY 01236 ""Health Care Plan Documentation & Permission to Administer Medication"" or equivalent form.

The following was observed:

Printed name(s) of child care staff member(s) who received instructions or were trained to perform the procedure were missing.

Signature(s) of child care staff member(s) who received instructions or were trained to perform the procedure were missing.

Date of staff signature was missing.

Administrator/Provider signature was missing.

Date of Administrator/Provider signature was missing.

Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the completed DCY 01236 or equivalent form, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 08/27/2026

Other Non-Compliances

This section includes other rule violations that are observable and/or based on facts.

Domain: **00 License & Approvals**

Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to maintain their food license and not allow it to expire.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that the posted food service license had expired. A current food service license must be obtained. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the updated food service license, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 08/27/2026

Domain: **00 License & Approvals**

Rule: 5180:2-12-02 Current Information

Requirement: The rule requires the program to keep their information current in the Ohio statewide licensing system.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that information was not up to date in the Ohio statewide licensing system.

The following information was not current: Services offered.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 08/27/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-07 Administrator Responsibilities/Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to maintain a staff schedule with coverage of the required health trainings.

Finding: Based on staff schedules in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR), it was determined the program did not have at least one child care staff member present/scheduled to be present during all hours of operation with currently valid documentation for health and safety trainings.

The following was observed:

First Aid – child care staff members scheduled during the hours of 6:30 AM-6:00 PM did not have verification of completion of First Aid

CPR – child care staff members scheduled during the hours of 6:30 AM-6:00 PM had expired training

CPR – child care staff scheduled during the hours of 6:30 AM-6:00 PM did not have verification of completion of CPR

Communicable Disease – child care staff members scheduled during the hours of [ ] and [ ] had expired training

Communicable Disease – child care staff scheduled during the hours of 6:30 AM-6:00 PM did not have verification of completion of Communicable Disease training

Child Abuse – child care staff members scheduled during the hours of 6:30 AM-6:00 PM had expired training

Child Abuse – child care staff scheduled during the hours of 6:30 AM-6:00 PM did not have verification of completion of Child Abuse training

Refer to the Employee Record Chart for specific details. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes verification of complete coverage for any training listed, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 08/27/2026

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: 07 Diapering & Infant Care

Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Bottle and Food Preparation

Requirement: The program staff is required to follow the practices preferred by the parents.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program does not have feeding preferences/instructions from parents or does not update them. 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: 5180:2-12-08 Orientation Training & Whistle Blower Protection

Requirement: 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.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the employee's orientation is not complete 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: 5180:2-12-08 Staff Immunization Records

Requirement: The program is required to have every employee provide immunization records.

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Findings: During the inspection, it was determined verification of staff immunization was not on file 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: 5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to have every employee provide evidence of tuberculois (TB) screening prior to the first day of employment.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined verification of TB screening was not on file 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's policies and procedures are required to include all topics outlined in rule.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program's policies and procedures handbook does not contain all items 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

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 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
5180:2-12-04 Fire Inspection	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-05 Denial, Revocation and Suspension	Not Applicable	

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

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: 5180:2-12-09 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
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	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Compliant	Documenting Statement: Outdoor equipment was viewed to be safe and free of rust, sharp points, and other hazards.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The protective material used under outdoor equipment was mulch.

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
5180:2-12-12 Safe Environment	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Not Applicable	

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 First Aid/Standard Precautions	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the program had a complete first aid kit available as required.

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
5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-17 Daily Outdoor Play	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-19 Supervision	Compliant	

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-22 Meal Preparation and Nutritional Requirements	Compliant	

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

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

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

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

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
5180:2-12-16 Emergency Postings	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-02 Amendments to the License	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Practices	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-15 Child Immunization Records	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-15 Child Enrollment Records	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-15 Child Record Requirements	Compliant	

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-20 Cribs - Safe Environment and Practices	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-20 Cribs - Placement	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-22 Specialized Diets	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training - Practices	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-23 2026 Diapering and Toilet Training - Supplies	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-25 2026 Medication Administration Practices	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-25 2026 Medication Documentation	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-25 2026 Medication Storage	Compliant	