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 First Steps Early Learning Center	Program Number 2250032222	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 8553 Herrick Drive Chesterland OH 44026		County GEAUGA

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Method On-site Inspection	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 09/02/2026	Begin Time 10:15 AM	End Time 2:30 PM	Reviewer: Kathryn Noftz

Summary of Findings			
No. Requirements Verified 66	No. Requirements with Non-compliances 3		No. Requirements Compliant 59
No. Serious Risk 0	No. Moderate Risk Findings 0	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)		7	2	9
Young Toddler		13	0	13
Total Under 2 ½ Years	90	20	2	22
Older Toddler		3	0	3
Preschool		5	0	5
School Age		0	7	7
Total Capacity/Enrollment	90	8	7	37

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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	2 to 6	In Compliance	1015am
Infants	0 to < 12 months	3 to 6	In Compliance	11am
Infants	0 to < 12 months	3 to 6	In Compliance	220pm
Young Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 6	In Compliance	1136am-Lunch
Young Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 11	In Compliance	1015am-Young/Older Toddler combined-Outside
Young Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	1 to 6	In Compliance	220pm-Nap
Older Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 6	In Compliance	1136am-Lunch
Older Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 12	In Compliance	220pm- Older Toddler/Preschool combined- Nap
Preschool/School age	30 months to < 36 months	1 to 6	In Compliance	1015am
Preschool/School age	30 months to < 36 months	1 to 6	In Compliance	1135am-Lunch
Preschool/School age	30 months to < 36 months	1 to 6	In Compliance	1045am-Outside

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.

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

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.

No moderate risk non-compliances were observed during this inspection

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 Equipment

Requirement: 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.

The following was observed:

- Changing table straps were attached and not used during a diaper change.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 10/14/2026

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.

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:

- A teacher picked up an infant in an unsafe manner.

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: 10/14/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**

Rule: 5180:2-12-09 Background Check Requirements

Requirement: The program is required to maintain a current DCY 01176 "Program Notification of Background Check Review for Child Care" on file for each staff.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that background check requirements had not been followed, for the individual(s) listed on the Employee Record Chart.

The following was observed:

- The DCY 1177 was on file

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that the correct form is now on file, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 10/14/2026

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:

- A teacher picked up an infant in an unsafe manner.

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: 10/14/2026

Domain: **08 Staff Files**
Rule: 5180:2-12-09 Background Check Requirements
Requirement:The program is required to maintain a current DCY 01176 "Program Notification of Background Check Review for Child Care" on file for each staff.
Findings:In review of the staff records, it was determined that background check requirements had not been followed, for the individual(s) listed on the Employee Record Chart.

The following was observed:

- The DCY 1177 was on file

Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that the correct form is now on file, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.
Corrective Action Plan Due: 10/14/2026

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: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment

Requirement: The program is to ensure equipment, furnishings, and materials are constructed of materials to facilitate cleaning.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program had equipment or materials or furnishings with material ripped, torn, or not easy to clean 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 Child Care Staff Member Educational Requirements

Requirement: The program staff is required to have educational verification on file at the program.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the employee's education document verifying completion of high school education is not complete or 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 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: 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
5180:2-12-18 License Capacity	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-02 License Visible	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-03 Inspection Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-04 Building Department Inspection	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 5-28-27

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: 0037123, 3-1-27.

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-08 Orientation Training & Whistle Blower Protection	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-10 Health Training Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-10 Professional Development Requirements	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-13 Handwashing Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

5180:2-12-13 Smoke Free Environment	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-14 Transportation and Field Trip Procedures	Compliant	

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Management of Communicable Disease	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Incident/Injury Reporting	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-15 Child Health Care Plans	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
5180:2-12-17 Daily Schedule	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-18 Ratio	Compliant	

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

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

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
Rule: 5180:2-12-24 Swimming and Water Safety Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The program staff indicated only wading pools and sprinklers were being used.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Emergency Postings	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-16 Emergency Drills	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-21 Mobile Preschools	Not Verified	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-02 Current Information	Compliant	

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
5180:2-12-08 Staff TB Screening Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-20 Cots and Napping - Equipment and Environment	Compliant	

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	