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 M. PATTERSON'S TENDER STEPS KIDS ACADEMY, LLC	Program Number 000000207699	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 1545 COMPTON RD MT. HEALTHY OH 45231		County HAMILTON

Building Approval Date 08/17/2009	Use Group/Code E	Occupancy Limit 49	Maximum Under 2 ½
Fire Inspection Approval Date 08/15/2025	Food Service Risk Level Level III		

Inspection Information		
Inspection Type Annual	Inspection Scope Full	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Inspection Date 02/19/2026	Begin Time 8:45 AM	End Time 11:45 AM
Reviewer: Nicole Vadnais		

Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified	No. Rules with Non-compliances	No. Serious Risk	No. Moderate Risk	No. Low Risk
58	9	0	1	8

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	12	4	0	4
Older Toddler		0	0	0
Preschool		7	0	7
School Age		3	0	3
Total Capacity/Enrollment	39	10	0	14

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

PS/SA	Mixed Age Group	2 to 10	8:45a all ages combined
PS/SA	Mixed Age Group	1 to 6	11:!5a
Infant/Toddler	Mixed Age Group	1 to 4	9:30a
Infant/Toddler	Mixed Age Group	1 to 4	11:15a

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: 01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio
Code: The program is required to maintain the appropriate staff to child ratio for each group served.

Finding: During the inspection, a ratio of 1 child care staff member(s) for 9 children was determined to have occurred for the mixed age group when the situation in number 1 below occurred:

1. A child care staff member stepped out of the room.
2. A child care staff member had not arrived at work on time.
3. Children were present who were not scheduled to be there.
4. A child care staff member was unable to work.
5. A child was injured in that group.
6. A child arrived in the group before a second staff member was scheduled to arrive with the group.
7. Two groups were combined, and the program did not follow the ratio for the youngest child in the group.
8. A child was transitioning to the next older age group, and the program did not follow the ratio for the youngest child in the group.
9. Ratio was doubled for more than two hours while children were napping.

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10. Ratio was doubled while children were napping for a group that included at least one infant.
11. Ratio was doubled while children were napping and there were not enough staff members in the building to meet staff/child ratio.
12. Ratio was doubled in the school age group to allow access to the program, however, the program does not serve only school age children.
13. Both child care staff members did not have a working communication device when one staff member left the group to allow access to the school age only program.
14. The child care staff member did not return to the group after allowing access to the school age only program.
15. Other [ ].

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: 03/21/2026

Low Risk Non-Compliances

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.

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 as noted in numbers 4 and 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.
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: exposed toilet bolts, space heaters (not turned on) and baby wipe packaging in reach.

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: 03/21/2026

Domain: 02 Safe & Sanitary Environment

Rule: 5180:2-12-13 Sanitary Equipment and Environment
Code: The program is required to provide equipment and materials that are easy to clean.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that at least one piece of equipment, furnishings, or material at the program was not constructed of materials to facilitate cleaning as noted in number 5 below:

1. The material had a tear.
2. The material was not washable.
3. The material was porous.
4. The surface was cracked.
5. The surface was repaired, but in a manner that still did not facilitate cleaning.
6. Other [ ].

Equipment, furnishings, and furniture shall be constructed of materials to facilitate cleaning. 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: 07 Diapering & Infant Care

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Rule: 5180:2-12-23 Infant Bottle and Food Preparation
Code: The program staff is required to label bottles containing formula or breast milk.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined that bottles containing breast milk/formula for a particular infant were not labeled with the child's name and date of preparation. 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: 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: 03/21/2026

Domain: 08 Staff Files

Rule: 5180:2-12-10 Health Training Requirements
Code: 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.

Finding: In review of the staff records, it was determined that at least one child care staff member had not completed required health and safety training as noted in numbers 4, 5, and 6 below:

1. Child abuse and neglect recognition and prevention training was not completed within sixty days of hire.
2. First aid training was not completed within ninety days of hire.
3. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training was not completed within ninety days of hire.
4. The child abuse and neglect recognition and prevention training was expired.
5. The first aid training was expired.
6. The CPR training was expired.

Refer to the Employee Record Chart for the name(s) of the child care staff member(s) who must complete the required health and safety training(s). Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/21/2026

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 numbers 5 and 7 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: 03/21/2026

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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, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 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
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.

Domain: 10 Written Policies & Procedures

Rule: 5180:2-12-16 Written Disaster Plan
Code: The program is required to train child care staff members and employees on the written disaster plan annually and keep written documentation of the training on-site.

Finding: During the inspection, it was determined the program’s written disaster plan did not meet the requirement for training child care staff members and employees on the plan annually as noted in number 1 below:

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1. Child care staff members and employees were not trained annually.
2. Written documentation of the training was not kept on file.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/21/2026

Rules In-Compliance/Not Verified

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
5180:2-12-04 Building Department Inspection	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-02 Current Information	Compliant	Documenting Statement: During the inspection, the requirements of the rule regarding maintaining current information in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System were discussed.

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 Fire Inspection	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable

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Rule: 5180:2-12-04 Food Service Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The food service license was observed posted.

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-07 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: 5180:2-12-08 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
5180:2-12-11 Indoor Space Requirements	Compliant	

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-11 Separation of Children Under 2 1/2 Years	Compliant	

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Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Space Requirements	Compliant	Documenting Statement: The quarterly playground inspections were completed and documented, as required.

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-12 Safe Equipment	Compliant	

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
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 ODJFS sample trip permission form for routine trips to secure written permission from parents or guardians.

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
5180:2-12-16 Medical, Dental, and General Emergency Plan	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
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
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
5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment	Compliant	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rule	Status	Documenting Statement(s), If applicable
5180:2-12-22 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
5180:2-12-23 Diapering and Toilet Training	Compliant	

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