Department of Children & Youth

Center Complaint Inspection Summary 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 little Avengers Academy, LLC	Program Number 2220026508	Program Type Child Care Center
Address 8905 mt. vernon road st louisville OH 43071		County LICKING

Inspection Information			
Inspection Type Complaint		Inspection Scope Partial	Inspection Notice Unannounced
Reviewer(s) Darcie Schofield	Inspection Day 02/25/2025	Begin Time 11:00 AM	End Time 4:00 PM

Summary of Findings				
No. Rules Verified	No. Rules with Non-compliances	No. Serious Risk	No. Moderate Risk	No. Low Risk
14	13	2	4	9

Staff-Child Ratios at the Time of Inspection			
Group	**Age Group/Range**	**Ratio Observed**	**Comment**
Toddlers	18 months to < 30 months	2 to 10	
Infants	0 to < 12 months	2 to 11	
Preschool	3 years to < 4 years	1 to 10	A toddler aged 2 years and 2 months old was with the group from the toddler classroom and the toddler ratio was not followed.
Pre-K	4 years to < 5 years	1 to 9	

Department of Children & Youth

Complaint Allegations

If a program disagrees with a licensing finding, the program may request a review of the finding(s). Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-12-03 and 5101:2-13-03 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.

Domain:00 License & Approvals

Rule: 5180:2-12-03 Inspection Requirements
Code: The program administrator and owner are required to provide true and accurate information.

Allegation: The complainant alleged that the owner directed staff to hide topical products during an inspection.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that the program provided false information, in that the owner directed staff in writing (text) to hide diaper cream and baby powder from the licensing specialist during an inspection. The rule requires the program to provide accurate and truthful information to the Department.
Rule 5180:2-12-03 requires the program to notify parents when a serious risk non-compliance is cited. The notification must inform parents of the serious risk non-compliance and include the Department of Children and Youth website and location of further information regarding the determination. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a copy of the written parent notification, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Risk Level: Serious

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/03/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance
Code: The program staff, including the owner and administrator, shall use developmentally appropriate techniques when managing children's behavior. Corporal punishment is prohibited, as well as any cruel, harsh, unusual or extreme techniques.

Allegation: The complainant alleged that children were not protected from inappropriate conversations and behavior.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that the administrator had used inappropriate techniques when managing unacceptable behavior in children, in that the prohibited technique(s) in number 12 below were used:

1. Utilize cruel, harsh, unusual, or extreme techniques.
2. Utilize any form of corporal punishment.
3. Delegate children to manage or discipline other children.
4. Use physical restraints on a child.
5. Restrain children by any means other than holding children for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so that the children may regain control.
6. Place children in a locked room or confine children in any enclosed area.
7. Confine children to equipment such as cribs or highchairs.
8. Humiliate, threaten or frighten children.
9. Subject children to profane language or verbal abuse.
10. Make derogatory or sarcastic remarks about children or their families.
11. Punish children for failure to eat or sleep or for toileting accidents.
12. Withhold any food (including snacks and treats), rest or toilet use.

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

13. Punish an entire group of children due to the unacceptable behavior of one or a few.
14. Isolate and restrict children from all activities for an extended period of time.

Child-care staff members and other employees must always use appropriate guidance and management methods with children. Provide staff training.

Rule 5180:2-12-03 requires the program to notify parents when a serious risk non-compliance is cited. The notification must inform parents of the serious risk non-compliance and include the Department of Children and Youth website and location of further information regarding the determination. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that training was provided to all employees, owners, and administrators and a copy of the written parent notification, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Risk Level: Serious

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/03/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision
Code: The program staff is required to protect or remove a child from a situation and/or person that are determined to be unsafe or inappropriate.

Allegation: The complainant alleged that children were not protected from inappropriate conversations and behavior.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the administrator, child care staff, and/or employees of the program did not protect or remove children from a situation and/or person determined to be unsafe or inappropriate as noted in number 4 below:

1. Verbal argument involving adults.
2. Staff member(s) allowed child(ren) to do something unsafe.
3. Staff member(s) did something unsafe.
4. Children were exposed to inappropriate conversation and behavior by a staff member.
5. Other [ ].

While the program did not protect the child(ren) from an unsafe or inappropriate situation and/or person, it was determined the situation would not or did not result in a serious incident or injury to a child. All program employees must take actions to protect children in care. 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.

Risk Level: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Child Guidance
Code: The program staff shall use developmentally appropriate techniques when managing children's behavior. Corporal punishment is prohibited, as well as any cruel, harsh, unusual or extreme techniques.

Allegation: The complainant alleged that children were not protected from inappropriate conversations and behavior.

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that a Child Care Staff Member had used the inappropriate techniques in numbers 1 below when managing unacceptable behavior in children:

1. Utilize cruel, harsh, unusual, or extreme techniques;
2. Utilize any form of corporal punishment;
3. Delegate children to manage or discipline other children;
4. Use physical restraints on a child;
5. Restrain a child by prone restraint or any means other than holding children for a short period of time, such as in a protective hug, so that the children may regain control;
6. Place children in a locked room or confine children in any enclosed area;
7. Confine children to equipment such as cribs or highchairs;
8. Humiliate, threaten or frighten children;
9. Subject children to profane language or verbal abuse;
10. Make derogatory or sarcastic remarks about children or their families;
11. Punish children for failure to eat or sleep or for toileting accidents;
12. Withhold any food (including snacks and treats), rest or toilet use;
13. Punish an entire group of children due to the unacceptable behavior of one or a few;
14. Isolate and restrict children from all activities for an extended period of time.

Child Care Staff Members and other employees must always use appropriate guidance and management methods with children. 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.

Risk Level: Moderate

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Ratio
Code: The program staff used in ratio are to refrain from other duties that would not allow them to provide appropriate care and supervision of the children in their group.

Allegation: The complainant alleged that staff members being used in ratio were engaged in other activities and were therefore unable to appropriately supervise children.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that Child Care Staff Members who were used in the staff/child ratio were engaged in other duties such as noted in number 6 below and, therefore, were unable to provide appropriate care and supervision to the children:

1. Cooking;
2. Cleaning that interferes with supervision;
3. Paperwork;
4. Talking on the phone for extended time;
5. Engaging in a conversation with a parent for an extended period of time;
6. Other: wearing earbuds and texting multiple times while supervising children.

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

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.

Risk Level: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

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.

Allegation: The complainant alleged that the program was not following mandated ratios.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, a ratio of one child care staff member(s) for ten children was determined to have occurred for the preschool group when the situation in number 15 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.
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: A toddler was bumped to the preschool group and the toddler ratio was not followed, as required.

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.

Risk Level: Moderate

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:05 Health & Safety

Rule: 5180:2-12-22 Safe Food Handling/Storage
Code: The program is required to refrain from serving food on bare tables.

Department of Children & Youth

Allegation: The complainant alleged that food was served on bare tables.

Determination: Substantiated

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that food was served on bare tables for the infant group. Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Risk Level: Low

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Summary of Additional Non-Compliances

Serious Risk Non-Compliances

No Additional Serious Risk Non-Compliances were observed during this inspection

Moderate Risk Non-Compliances

Domain:04 Indoor/Outdoor Space

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Equipment
Code: The program is required to anchor equipment to the ground as required, to close "S" hooks to prevent the chain from slipping off and prevent strangulation and provide equipment with openings that will not pose a safety risk.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that equipment on the outdoor play space posed an imminent risk of harm to a child as noted in number 1 below:

1. The geo dome climbers were not anchored.
2. The swings were not securely anchored.
3. The slide was not securely anchored.
4. The climbing rope was not securely anchored at both ends.
5. The "S" hooks on the climber were not closed in order to prevent the chain from slipping off the hook and prevent strangulation.
6. The "S" hooks on the swing(s) were not closed in order to prevent the chain from slipping off the hook and prevent strangulation.

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

7. The [ ] had an opening that was greater than three and one-half inches, but less than nine inches. Equipment openings must be less than 3 1/2 inches or more than 9 inches to avoid the risk of entrapment.

Discontinue the use of this equipment until it has been removed, repaired or replaced. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:07 Diapering & Infant Care

Rule: 5180:2-12-20 Cribs
Code: The program is required to place infants in cribs while sleeping.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that the equipment in numbers 3 and 10 below had been used for sleeping infants and did not allow the infant to sleep on a firm mattress:

1. Mesh cribs;
2. Play pens;
3. Bassinet propped on a boppy;
4. Cots;
5. Car seats;
6. Infant swing;
7. The floor;
8. Infant seats;
9. An infant placed in a car seat in a crib;
10. Other: On the floor

Infants must be provided with a crib, which meets requirements specified in this rule, for resting and sleeping. Provide staff training. Submit the program's corrective action plan, which includes a statement that staff training was provided, to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Low Risk Non-Compliances

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-18 Attendance Records
Code: The program is required to maintain a record of the arrival and departure of each child. The program is also required to retain the original attendance record at the center for a period of one year.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the program did not meet the requirements for keeping an attendance record as listed in number 2 below:

1. No attendance record was being maintained.
2. The attendance record was not being consistently completed in toddlers and preschool.
3. The record did not include the name of at least one child.

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

4. The record did not include the birth date of at least one child.
5. The record did not include the assigned group.
6. The record did not include the child's weekly schedule.
7. The record did not include the time (hours and minutes) of each child's arrival and departure to the program, including transportation by the program.
8. The original attendance record was not kept at the program for a period of one year.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:01 Ratio & Supervision

Rule: 5180:2-12-19 Supervision
Code: The program staff is required to supervise children in their assigned group by sight and hearing. Supervision includes being near enough to respond and reach children immediately including responding to the child's basic needs and protecting them from harm.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that children were not being properly supervised as noted in number 1 below:

1. Child(ren) were not within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member during indoor play (in the Preschool the teacher was in the main classroom area and children were in the half wall area and not visible to the teacher).
2. Child(ren) were not within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member during outdoor play.
3. Child(ren) were not within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member more than once.
4. Staff were not physically present in the space and near enough to respond and reach the child(ren) immediately.
5. Other: [ ].

Children must be supervised according to rule and within both sight and hearing of a child care staff member at all times. 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: 03/28/2025

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.

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 as noted in number 22 and 23 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: A wax burner was within reach in the Preschool classroom.
23. Plastic slats on the stairs to the preschool and infant rooms were coming unglued and caused a tripping hazard

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: 03/28/2025

Domain:03 Postings & Equipment

Rule: 5180:2-12-17 Materials and Equipment
Code: The program is required to provide equipment appropriate for the children in the program in sufficient quantities that all children can be actively involved. Play materials must be accessible to the children and arranged in an orderly manner.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined that equipment, materials and furnishings provided for indoor and outdoor play did not meet the requirement of the rule as noted in number 2 below.

1. Equipment and materials were not varied and adequate to meet the developmental needs of the children.
2. Equipment and materials were not provided in a sufficient quantity that each child can be actively involved in an activity (in Preschool).
3. Play materials were not readily accessible to the children in the [ ] classroom.
4. Play materials were not arranged in an orderly manner so that children have opportunities to select, remove and replace play materials with minimal assistance during the day in the [ ] classroom.
5. Durable, child-sized or safely adapted furniture was not provided for children in the [ ] classroom.

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:04 Indoor/Outdoor Space

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

Department of Children & Youth

Code: 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 as noted in number 3 below:

1. There was rust exposed.
2. There were protruding bolts.
3. There were cracks and broken sharp edges on the climber.
4. There were holes.
5. There was splintering wood.
6. There were sharp edges or points.
7. There were lead hazards.
8. There were toxic substances.
9. There were tripping hazards.
10. There was chipped and/or peeling paint.
11. The sandbox was not covered when the program was closed or during non-daylight hours.
12. Outdoor equipment, [ ] was not developmentally appropriate.
13. Outdoor equipment, [ ], was placed in the main traffic pattern.
14. Outdoor play equipment, [ ], was positioned too closely together, posing a risk of injury if a child were to fall from one piece of equipment into another.
15. Outdoor equipment, [ ], was not securely anchored but did not present a risk of imminent danger of the structure collapsing when children are using the equipment
16. Outdoor equipment, [ ], was 30 inches or more from the ground and did not have a protective barrier that would prevent a child from falling off this piece of equipment.
17. The manufacturer's guidelines for assembly and installation were not followed for the [ ].
18. Functionally linked equipment was used by preschool-age children and the distance between two adjacent pieces of equipment exceeded 12 inches.
19. Functionally linked equipment was used by school-age children and the distance between two adjacent pieces of equipment exceeded 18 inches.
20. Other [ ].

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

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025

Domain:04 Indoor/Outdoor Space

Rule: 5180:2-12-11 Outdoor Play Fall Zones
Code: The program is required to provide fall zones around equipment to prevent injury if a child were to fall.

Findings: During the inspection, it was determined the fall zone under and around equipment designated for climbing, swinging, balancing and sliding did not meet the requirements as noted in numbers 4 and 6 below:

1. The fall surface material had not been properly distributed or raked as needed to retain proper depth under and around equipment.
2. A fall zone hazard was present, in that, the [ ] posed a risk of injury if a child were to fall from a piece of equipment.
3. The fall zone was less than 3 feet from the fence for equipment used by children 23 months of age and younger.
4. The fall zone was less than 6 feet from the fence for equipment used by children 24 months of age and older.
5. There was not a fall zone of 3 feet in all directions from the perimeter of the equipment used by children 23 months of age and younger.

Department of Children & Youth

6. There was not a fall zone of 6 feet in all directions from the perimeter of the equipment used by children 24 months of age and older.
7. The fall zone was less than 4 1/2 feet from each piece of applicable equipment used by children 23 months of age and younger.
8. The fall zone was less than 9 feet from each piece of applicable equipment used by children 24 months of age and older.
9. Other [ ].

The program is required to provide adequate fall zones under and around outdoor play equipment at all times. Submit the program's corrective action plan to the Department to verify compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Corrective Action Plan Due: 03/28/2025