Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Kids Corner Child Care & Learning Center

Provider No.: 19201

Address: 314 6th Street North, Winthrop, IA, 50682

County: Buchanan

Director's Name: Ashley Taylor

On-Site Supervisor: Ashley Taylor

Phone Number: 3199353434

E-Mail: winthropkidscorner@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/23/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/14/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	24	15	18	11	68
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 02/23/26 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Kids Corner Child Care & Learning Center in Winthrop. I met with Ashley Taylor, the director. Ms. Taylor became the director in October 2024. Emily Dawes is the administrative lead and she is in charge when Ms. Taylor is not available. Ms. Dawes is in school for an elementary education degree. She has worked with the program since 2021. Taylor Jarrett is also a supervisor for the program and steps in when Ms. Taylor is gone. She has worked with the program since 2021. The program employs thirteen staff members.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. It is a non-profit program that has been in operation since 2005. The program operates 5:30 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. The program serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 47 children enrolled in the center.

The program operates out of the following rooms: infants (Itty Bitty Bloomers), a room for children one-year-old (Messy Monkeys), a room for two-years-olds (Dancing Dolphins), a room for three and four-year-olds (Little Guppies) and they use the media room as the school age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, listening, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

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Each room has access to a bathroom that has one toilet. Each room has two sinks. Changing tables are in the rooms for the younger children. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks and diaper changing procedures were posted near all the diaper changing tables. I observed and discussed diaper changes with the staff members and procedures are being followed.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans and activities planned around themes. The length of the theme/unit depends on the topic and the children's interest level. Lesson plans were not available for review in the Dancing Dolphins room. They stated they did not have a lead teacher to prepare a lesson plan. They are required to have a lesson plan with or without a lead teacher.

A daily schedule was posted in all rooms.

Daily sheets are provided to parents in each room to inform parents on how the child's day was through the Brightwheel app. The app does not have a spot to document a child's mood which is a mandated area for children under the age of two-years-old. I would recommend documenting the children's mood under the notes section.

I observed first-aid kits in each room.

There was a phone in each classroom and emergency phone numbers, including the center's address and phone number, were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in all rooms.

Cribs are used to nap for the infants and cots are used to nap for the older children. The infant room transitions children to cots before they move to the next room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in January 2024 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the kitchen. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/14/26.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Amy Ball is the primary cook/kitchen director. She makes a new menu each month. The program has a refrigerator, an upright freezer and a chest freezer. There were thermometers present. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher, and they have three industrial sinks to use for the three-step method for larger dishes. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. Meals are served family style for the older children.

The program makes homemade baby food for the infants. Parents provide formula. If parents want the center to provide the formula, they must pay a fee. The center provides the homemade baby food and cereal. Bottles are washed in the infant room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and a thermometer was present.

The program uses Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. Please note that the directions on the product bottle state this requires a portable water rinse on food tables prior to children eating at them. This did not happen while I was present. Food tables must be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized, followed by a portable water rinse both before and after all food activity.

While I was in the Dancing Dolphins the staff member used the same rag to clean the food tables with soap and water and to wipe off the Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide. Separate rags must be used. The cloth is considered soiled after cleaning the table with soap and water. I did talk with the staff members about the correct process. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

The program has a large fenced-in playground area that is divided into three spaces. The area for the school age and preschool children has a large piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities for the children. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. There is a grassy area and a concrete path for riding toys. There is a picnic table for the children to rest. Trees provide shade.

In the second area for children eighteen months through two years old, there is also a smaller piece of climbing equipment

with slides. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. There are playhouses, rocking toys, pushing toys. There are picnic tables for the children to rest. There is a picnic table for the children to rest. Trees are available for shade.

In the area for the one-year-old children there is a shade shelter. There were also rocking toys, pushing toys, a caterpillar tunnel, dramatic play center and a small slide. Trees are available for shade.

The parent information is posted in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. My contact poster was outdated but an updated poster with my current email address and the current HHS website was provided to the center.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children. They had great routines in the classrooms but were also flexible to meet the needs of the children. Staff members had good teamwork with one another. They communicated with each other and knew which tasks each of them needed to do within the classroom. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. They interacted with the children at their level by sitting on the floor during play. Staff members assisted with handwashing and had great reminders for the children when it was time to wash hands. Staff members were enthusiastic. They were also patient and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members reminded children to cover their mouths when they coughed. The modeled good manners. Staff members were nurturing. I observed children on their laps and several children received hugs. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

Ms. Taylor is doing a great job as the director. She is not afraid to make difficult decisions. She is committed to the center, straight forward and she has a good relationship with staff members.

Ms. Taylor states the center has focused on the quality of the center to improve the quality of care they provide for families. They have spent a lot of time cleaning the center and getting rid of junk.

Ms. Taylor states the center received the Grow Iowa grant and the Buchanan County Health Trust Fund.

Ms. Taylor states the communication within the rooms has improved. They are relaying the information parents give them at drop off and pick-up with one another.

Ms. Taylor states they continue to work on face to face communication with parents at pick-up and drop off. They communicate with parents using the Brighwheel app during the day but want to make it more personal.

Ms. Taylor states children work better with schedules, regularity and staff consistency and this is what they are focusing on.

Ms. Taylor states the overall morale and relationship with the parents and families has improved.

The program had an IQ4K level of 1 that expired in September 2025. They are resubmitting for a level 1.

The center is in a secure building and there are cameras in the classrooms, on the playground and in the entrance.

The infant room is a storm shelter.

Woodchips were donated for the playground.

Ms. Taylor states they work with Lisa Wood from CCR&R frequently. She has been a great help and they are making improvements.

The center uses the Brightwheel app. The Brightwheel app allows parents to sign their children in and out of the center, pay their bills and it is how staff members communicate with parents daily. The parents love the Brightwheel app. The Brightwheel app also has all the emergency contact information for the children.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There are no citations.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Talk with staff members about not re-using rags.

Date: 02/24/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.