Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: First Step Daycare

Provider Name: First Step Daycare

Provider No.: 23729

Address: 1635 13th AVE SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

E-Mail:

County: Linn

Phone Number: 3194319570

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 1/9/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [X] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

1. Basic Overview

Janese has been a Registered childcare provider since 1998 (28 years). Janese was previously rated level 4 on the old Quality rating system. Janese does not currently participate in the current IQ4K quality rating system. She did report that she is currently working on receiving a rating in that system. Janese does participate in the Food Program. Janese is open to caring for children of all ages. Janese does not have any pets. Janese does have a fenced in yard. Janese does not have a substitute or an assistant. Janese primarily uses the main level of her home for childcare. She did report that the only area of the upper level that she utilizes for childcare is the bathroom. That is approved but she does not have an approved secondary exit from the upper level so side from the bathroom, that level is not approved for childcare purposes.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

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Janese did have a fairly extensive contract/policies that included more than the 2 minimum required policies.
Janese did have her documentation in 1 location for easy review of compliance.
Janese had 2 children in her care on this date, and they presented as comfortable in her care.
The children were playing with playdough just prior to my arrival. Janese did share that she tries to minimize TV time. She does have appropriate items for play for the children.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.8 (1) g : Has not less than one 2A 10BC rated fire extinguisher in a visible and readily accessible place on each child-occupied floor.

Janese shared that she does use the bathroom on the upper level of her home at times for childcare purposes. We did discuss that each floor utilized for childcare does need to have an appropriate size fire extinguisher. She did have a small one on that floor but not the approved size.

*Janese needs to obtain the appropriate size fire extinguisher for the second floor of her home. It needs to be at least size 2A 10BC.

* Janese needs to send pictorial verification of that to this worker once obtained.

110.8 (4) b : Procedures are in place for:
Evacuation to safely leave the facility,
Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation,
Shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where the child is when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue,
Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation,
Communication and reunification with families,
Continuity of operations, and
Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs.
Janese did have an EPP but needed to make some adjustments.
Janese had several evacuations sites noted as possible re-location sites. Some of those required her driving the children. She does not currently have a working vehicle and has not for several months, so we did re-evaluatioe her written plan while I was present to include re-location sites within walking distance. The updates were made while this worker was present. She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

110.9 (1) b : Documentation from the Department confirming record checks have been completed and authorizing or limiting the person's involvement with childcare.

Janese could not locate this documentation. She was encouraged to try to locate it and to keep that documentation that should be sent to her at each renewal.

A re-check is not needed at this time. The above corrections should be made within 3 weeks (by 1/30/26) and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check.
Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted above to christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov or text to 319-429-0749.

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Janese does not transport the childcare children.
Janese shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool but will use water tables or other water play.
We did discuss safe sleep policies.

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Janese is aware of the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a C1 provider.

Janese did have written policies for ill children and health emergencies. Her policies did also include that parents are able to submit an exemption for immunizations.

As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. Janese had several evacuations sites noted as possible re-location sites. Some of those required her driving the children. She does not currently have a working vehicle and has not for several months, so we did re-evaluatioe her written plan while I was present to include re-location sites within walking distance. She does not need to send pictorial verification of those changes as she made them while this worker was present.
She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

Recommendations:
none at this time.

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: Janese did obtain a fire extinguisher for the second level of her home, and she did send pictorial verification on 1/10/26. This worker received that verification on 1/12/26.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 1/13/2026

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 1/9/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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 I encourage you to work with Emmeka Hawkins with Child Care Resource and Referral if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs. Emmeka can be reached at 563-499-1853