Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Garner Community Christian Child Care

Provider No.: 48449

Address: 620 West Lyon St, Garner, IA, 50438

County: Hancock

Director's Name: Lauren Hammitt

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6419251270

E-Mail: director@gc4childcare.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/29/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/07/2023

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	27	18	50	34	129
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Garner Community Christian Child Care center on 05-29-26 where I met with the center director, Lauren Hammitt. Lauren took over the director role in 2025 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood care. The program relocated to a new building in Garner that was specifically built for the daycare in the summer of 2026. The program is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a board of directors. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are currently 36 children enrolled in the program served by 13 staff. All aspects of the center subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of the building, and arrangement of classrooms have all children located on ground level with access off a main central corridor. Classrooms are determined by age groups. Infants make use of two classrooms with one for infants birth - 12 months of age, and the other for infants 12 - 24 months of age. The school age children also have access to two classrooms but one room is currently empty and could be use for other age groups as needed. Each room has direct secondary egress to the outdoors. It was noted that the door handles for the young infant and 2 year old classrooms were initially difficult to operate but did become easier to open as if the internal mechanism needed to be "broken in". This should be monitored and if the handles continue to be difficult to open the contractor should be notified in the event they need to be replaced. The young infant room has a small programming space that is separated from the rest of the room by a half wall. It is noted that the capacity of the room does take into consideration the availability of the entire classroom space and not just that defined space. Each room has windows in the exterior walls that provide natural light, and a view of the outdoors. Each classroom has restrooms available directly from the classroom space so that children do not need to leave the room. Additional restrooms are located off the main hallway. There is a pass through space between the infant rooms which houses changing stations. Each classroom has additional sinks in the classroom to allow for handwashing. Each

classroom has an open floor plan design with installed coat cubbies. Activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as to not create any blind areas.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program was previously reviewed during a visit on 02-12-26 while still operating in their prior location which reviewed overall aspects of the classroom functioning, and administrative records. The current visit reviewed the new classrooms, playground, and kitchen spaces. Strong interactions and child engagement was observed in all classrooms with all staff attending to the children's needs. Many of the children were napping, but the school age children, and some preschool age children who did not need to nap were engaged in quiet activities. This included the children and teachers of the school age classroom participating in a page coloring contest of the same image which would then be judged and the winner(s) receiving an award. Ratio was maintained in classrooms as required by age.

During the visit I was not able to observe a diaper change but the required procedures posting was present. Good cleaning and hygiene practices were observed with staff cleaning classrooms while children were napping. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room for children under 12 months of age. Older children made use of cots for napping. All cots and cribs had appropriately fitted bedding. A good variety of toys and materials were present in each classroom that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children. First aid kits were present and well stocked. Locking medication storage cabinets were present in classrooms and all medications were properly stored.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The kitchen and equipment were clean and new. Good food storage practices were observed for both refrigerated and dry pantry items. A copy of the planned menu was posted.

The center now has two playgrounds on opposite sides of the building with one for infants and toddlers, and one for the preschool and school age children. Both make use of artificial turf over soft fall surfacing. Both also have paved areas for use with other toys. Awnings provide ample shade in both spaces. The equipment was observed to be of new commercial grade construction with no concerns regarding installation observed.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, License Certificate, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were present and posted in an area that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contacts, handwashing, diapering, disease exposure, daily schedule, curriculum, and menu were also present. Child and Staff files were reviewed during the prior visit in February and were found to be in general compliance. Given the new construction nature of the program inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all mechanicals. The center will need to conduct Radon testing but will wait until next summer due to the foundation work that was completed to ensure an accurate reading is obtained. The center policy handbooks were previously reviewed and while all required written policies were present the Parent Handbook should be updated to expand information for several policies, and identify requirements for staff training or reference where parents can find that information. Policies that should be updated include responding to Major/Minor Medical/Dental injurie, Incident Reporting, and Immunization Notification for Exemptions,

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None Cited

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the following year.

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Date: 06/02/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.