Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: North Ridge School Age Child Care

Provider No.: 26456

Address: 400 NW 27th ST, Grimes, IA, 50111

County: Polk

Director's Name: Cindy Armstrong

On-Site Supervisor: Maddie Sedrel - Kleen, Traci Gafford, and Sommer Pane

Phone Number: 5152107978

E-Mail: cindya@grimesdaycare.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/17/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/12/2024

Comments: Grimes/Johnston Fire Marshal. Inspections are required at least every three years per State regulations.

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	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	90	90
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 3/17/26. On-site supervisor, Maddie Sedrel - Kleen, was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

North Ridge School Age Child Care is located in Grimes, IA in the North Ridge Elementary School. The center is owned/operated by Cindy Armstrong. Children who reside in the Dallas Center - Grimes School District can attend this center. Some enrolled children attend North Ridge. Other children attend school at either South Prairie, Dallas Center Elementary, or Heritage and then are bused to North Ridge. Total child enrollment is currently 58 children.

This center serves school-age children during the hours of 6:45am-8:00am and/or 3:15pm-5:30pm during the school year (Wednesdays are early out days and hours of operation are 1:00pm - 5:30pm). During the summer months and no school days, the center is open from 6:45am-5:30pm. The center primarily uses the cafeteria, but they also have access to the gym (located next to the cafeteria) and the outdoor play area. During the summer months, the center utilizes the Magic School Bus Learning Curriculum.

As stated above, Cindy Armstrong is the owner/director of this program. Cindy has worked in child care for many years and meets the qualifications as director. Maddie Sedrel - Kleen, Traci Gafford, and Sommer Pane are the on-site supervisors. All on-site supervisors meet the qualifications for their positions.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

NUTRITION: The center serves children an AM snack and a PM snack. During the summer months and no school days, children are required to bring in their own lunches. The center will store these lunches as needed. No issues with noted with the food menu or food storage.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center contracts with the school for a school bus driver and bus for all field trips that are not within walking distance. Field trips are only taken during the summer months.

PLAYGROUND: The center utilizes the school playground. The playground is large and consists of climbing structures, black top area, and grassy area. Monthly playground checks are being conducted. Bolts along the fence still need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

During the inspection, there was initially only one child present in the AM. At the conclusion of the inspection, there were five children present. There was no school on this day as it is Spring Break week. Children were observed in free-choice play and interacting with staff. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has a good working relationship with the school.

When children arrive, roll call is taken to ensure all children present are accounted for and to document any absences. Attendance is taken several times throughout children's stay at the center. This was observed during the visit.

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment remains steady.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together.

The center continues to incorporate technology into their teachings as well as center practices.

The center has indoor gym space when weather doesn’t permit outdoor play.

Weekly staff meetings are held. Some of these meetings are more informal in nature, but communication between staff, directors and owners is stressed. The annual handbook/emergency plans were recently reviewed by all staff.

Staff and children files were nicely organized.

Playground renovations are planned for the summer of 2026.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

No below standards were observed at this year's inspection.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they only serve school-age children and in the children's school.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Powe profiles and are uploading their training certificates.

There are still some bolts along the fence/gate areas of the playground that need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

Tables should always be cleaned and sanitized using the three step method of first using soap and water, rinsing, then sanitizing.

As it pertains to difficult child behaviors, management frequently talks to staff about open communication with each other and also communication with parents. The center staff are taught to try to remain calm, know personal "hot buttons", document all incidents/accidents, and teamwork.

Date: 03/17/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.