Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Yellow Brick Road ECDC - Polk City

Provider No.: 51997

Address: 415 W Bridge RD, Polk City, IA, 50226

County: Polk

Director's Name: Dee Yates

On-Site Supervisor: Bobbie Cowden

Phone Number: 5159846147

E-Mail: Dee.Yates@ybrecdc.org
troy.bage@ybrecdc.org

HHS Visit Date: 04/10/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/07/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by DIAL-Seth Jones

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [X] Accrediation

Comments: This center has been awarded Level I IQ4K and is nearing application for level II.

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 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	16	28	74	46	164
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was competed 4-10-26 Director Dee Yates, director, was present for the visit.

Yellow Brick Road Early Child Development Centers were acquired by Avathon Capital and has a board of directors. Yellow Brick Road EDCD is comprised of several centers across Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska.

This building opened in Dec. 2006 as a childcare center. Jamie Ballentine is the regional director. Dee Yates is the director for this center. Bobbi Cowden is the on-site supervisor, staring in this position in December of 2018. Both meet criteria for positions.

The center provides care to infants up to school age children; up to around twelve years of age. The center hours are from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

Room observations/activities: YBR is working to update curriculum and uses an application to help communicate with families. Each classroom offered a good variety of play centers and toys. The children appeared content and were observed to be readily interactive with their teachers.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff at this center. YBR-Polk City offers children morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. The children eat cafeteria style while staff are present and continue to interact. The kitchen was clean and nicely organized.

Playground: The playground area is separated by ages and enclosed by chain link fencing. The outdoor play areas offer play

equipment and riders.

Transportation: The center offers transportation to/from school and for field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has had/has teachers that participate in the Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. Teachers also have participated in TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

Yellow Brick Road-Polk City has attained Level I and is preparing soon to apply to Level II in IQ4K. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on

The center has a Facebook page and a Website.

The Director has been with this center for a number of years and brings with her expertise and experience. The assistant director also has years of experience and both the director and assistant director work well as a team.

Teachers were consistently observed to work well together to meet the needs of the children. The children were content and engaged in teacher-lead activities.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

109.11(3)a
Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.

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

109.9(2)b:(child files missing emergency information)
*The director/assistant director will review files to ensure the family has provided emergency medical/dental contact information.

109.11(3)a
Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.

*The infant room changing table was observed to have a lot of debris and in need of a thorough cleaning, including under the mat. The director and teachers will review policy regarding cleaning/sanitizing the changing tables and ensure this is completed regularly.

*The boys and girls restrooms for older children was observed with several toilets in need of cleaning and sanitization as there was obvious mold in the toilet bowls and under the rims of the toilet bowls. The director will review the center policy regarding cleaning/sanitizing the restrooms and ensure this is completed regularly.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Radon testing is now required every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last radon test was completed in May of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. This center offers professional trainings for staff along with staff meetings that include processing and brainstorming different strategies to help teacher effectively respond to children with behavioral struggles. The director indicated that professional development days also discuss with Teachers that if there is a need for a break, Teachers are able to seek out assistance from the director and/or assistant director.

Date: 04/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.