Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Cub Cadet Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 78 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52263

Street: 1441 Gull AVE **City:** Latimer Iowa **Zip** 50452 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: 1441 Gull AVE, Latimer, IA, 50452

Director's Name: Abby Meyer **Phone Number:** 641-579-6085

On-Site Supervisor(s): Becca Kaefring, Jessica Malimanck **E-Mail:** meyera@cal.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 08-06-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-13-2023

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 11-04-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	13	18	51	80	162
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-08-2025

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was made to the Cub Cadet Childhood Center on 08-06-25 where I met with the center director and school principal, Abby Meyer. Abby is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and on-going training. The program is overseen by the school. The center provides full range daycare to infants through school age children, and a formal preschool program. The formal preschool program offers 2 classes with one for 3 year old children which is operated under the DHHS license, and a 4 year old preschool which is operated under the Statewide Voluntary Grant program overseen by the Department of Education. There are currently 78 children enrolled in the program served by 16 staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit with the exception of the formal preschool programming which was not in session.

The layout and design of the center has changed since the time of the last report and additional changes are pending completion of some renovation work. The program will discontinue the use of a modular home building that has housed the infants and 2 year old children and move those to the main school building. The 2 year old children will make use of the space previously used for the 4 year old class, and the infants will move to the room previously used by the 3 year old children. Classrooms previously used for the formal preschool and school age children have been renovated to remove intervening walls to create two larger classroom spaces that will be used for the formal preschool programming, and then school age programming at the end of the day and during the summer. The infant room renovation is in the process of removing the bathrooms and will install a counter to use as a changing station. Sinks will be present to allow for handwashing and food preparation. The two year old classroom will have restroom facilities directly accessible from the room. The formal preschool classrooms and school age children will use restroom facilities located directly accessible from the classrooms off the main access corridor. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The infant and two year old room will have access to a connecting foyer with a direct access to the outdoors. The preschool rooms will make use of evacuation windows.

Each classroom makes use of furniture and play structures to define activity centers which are arranged such that there are no blind areas. The center has acquired new furnishings for the preschool classrooms. The toys and materials present in each activity center were appropriate to the ages of the children present with the exception of those in the 2 year old room which included choking hazards such as cars with small wheels, bead necklaces, and repurposed experience bottles where the caps were not glued down. Items and toys with parts that can break off which are less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Good interactions were observed in each classroom with the staff being engaged with the children. Due to the continuing renovation work the younger preschool age children were making use of the school gymnasium, and the older preschool children combining with the school age children. This did result in a general programming approach that was largely self-directed center play with the teachers moving among the children playing with them and providing supervision. One supervision issue that was noted was with regard to the older children and restroom use. During the visit there were times when staff would step into the doorway of the classroom to watch children as they walked down the hallway to use the restroom, and other times they would not. Licensing Standards does require that staff provide close and careful supervision which is interpreted to mean within sight and sound of staff at all times. While the children are of an age that they are frequently making use of restrooms unsupervised during the school day staff still need to provide supervision to

ensure that the children are making it to the restroom and back, and also be in a position to provide support as needed. This can help to reduce the risk of children using the excuse of needing to use the restroom to elope from the center, or from staff losing track of a child. The center uses the same proactive positive behavior support program that the school uses which includes the implementation of routines, praise, redirection, and guided problem solving.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and while the teacher did follow the general required procedures some practices should be reviewed. During the changing process the teacher did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials which does increase the risk for cross contamination. When cleaning the changing station the teacher did a one step process of spraying the surface with the disinfectant product. It is recommended that surfaces are precleaned before disinfecting and for those products which identify that they are suitable for a 1 step process due to the presence of detergents or components staff should spray the surface, immediately wipe it clean, and then re-spray the surface allowing the product to dwell for the required time frame. Chemical cleaners, medications, person belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. First aid kits were present and the center does have additional supplies and access to the school nurse. Good handwashing practices were observed during the time of the visit with teachers ensuring children washed their hands following restroom use, and before meals, and assisting younger children as needed. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room for children under 1 year of age. Good positioning was observed when feeding children including younger infants.

The program participates in the Summer Lunch program with the school cafeteria preparing meals for the daycare children, but is also accessible to members of the community. All children came to the school lunchroom for meal service on the day of the visit. Meals are pre-portioned and good food service practices were observed with staff using food service gloves and measured scoops. The classrooms teachers were observed to modify food items by cutting the into bite sized pieces for infants and toddlers, and into smaller sections that were more easily handled for younger preschool age children. A copy of the planned menu was posted and the meal served was consistent with the planned menu. One issue that was noted is that the preschool and school age children were allowed to select milk from a cooler which included chocolate flavored milk. While the center is participating in the Summer Lunch program they are still required to follow the guidelines of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) which would mean supplementing or substituting non-credible food options. With regard to milk CACFP requires that non-flavored skim or low fat white milk be provided for children under 6 years of age. The teachers did not eat with the children but supervision was provided at the tables.

In addition to the renovations of the interior spaces the center is making changes to the outdoor playground spaces. The center continues to make use of the school playground space and equipment for preschool and school age children. The center is working to playground space used by the younger preschool and infant/toddler aged children and replace it with a new space. The new playground space will include a pour in place fall surfacing, new climbing structure, and shade awning.

All required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and the License Certificate were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for emergency evacuation plans, classroom schedules, and curriculum plans were not present in several classrooms on the day of my visit however this is due to the renovation work, and moving of classrooms. It was discussed that these will need to be reposted. The center uses the Procare Data Management and Communications application to maintain child records and infant daily sheets, as well as hard copy files in the school office. A random selection of 20% of child files were selected for review and each was found to contain all required information. It was also observed that the center is using the communication app to log infant daily sheets and staff were not including information regarding daily disposition and activities. It was discussed that this was cited in the prior report as well and Abby did identify that staff had been doing better initially following the prior report but appear to have fallen back to not documenting the information. It was discussed that appointing this a review responsibility for a lead teacher may be a way to maintain consistency. Staff files were also reviewed and again 20% of the files were randomly selected and found to contain all required documentation. Inspection logs and certificates were were available and current. The center did renew Radon testing in April 2025 and the tested levels were all well below the 4.0 piCu/L cutoff limits. The center does not have a mitigation system and it was reviewed that changes to requirements would allow the center to move to a 5 year renewal.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has been working to continue the substantial renovations to the physical facilities with expanding classrooms, and planning to move the infants and toddlers to new spaces in the school building. By moving those younger children it will provide for enhanced safety, large programming space, and better oversight.

The program has been very stable over the past year with regard to enrollment of children, and staffing.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.9(3): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include:The time periods in which the child has slept.The amount of food consumed and the times at which the child has eaten.The time of and any irregularities in the child's elimination patterns.The general disposition of the child.A general summary of the activities in which the child participated.
-- Documentation of daily Disposition, and Activities was not being maintained as required. -- 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- Children were allowed to leave the school age classroom at times where they were not in the direct line of sight and sound of staff. If staff cannot leave the room to escort children to restrooms, lockers, or other locations staff need to at a minimum step into the hallway so that they can maintain line of sight.

109.11(2)a: The center will provide sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture. It must meet the developmental, activity and special needs of the children.
-- Items and toys that would be considered choking hazards need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age.

V. 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 next year.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.