Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Dr Clifford C Smith Childcare Center

Provider No.: 31128

Address: 626 Main ST, Mc Gregor, IA, 52157

County: Clayton

Director's Name: Jennifer McCullick

On-Site Supervisor: Jennifer McCullick

Phone Number: 5638732992

E-Mail: drsmithchildcare@mflmm.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 08/25/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/04/2023

Comments: Compliance on 12/06/23

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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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	14	12	8	4	38
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/25/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Dr. Clifford C. Smith Childcare Center in McGregor. I met with Jennifer McCullick, the director. Ms. McCullick started with the program in October 2019 and became the director in May 2022. She has an AAS in early childhood education. She was previously an infant room teacher. The center employs fourteen staff members.

The center opened on 09/02/05. The program operates out of a free-standing building. It is open Monday through Friday from 5:45 am until 6:00 pm and it serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 36 children enrolled.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 11/30/26. They plan to go for a level 2. Ms. McCullick states two staff members use the WAGES program. No one is using TEACH.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room, toddler room (two and younger three- year-olds), and a preschool room. School-aged children use the preschool room when they are present during the school year. During the summer months the school age children are cared for at the elementary school in town. This program is also licensed by HHS. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects. The toddler room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler and preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computer, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to plan activities for the children. They keep a binder for the month that has all the activities organized for each day. Lesson plans were not available for review the day o f the visit. Lesson plans must be developed and available for review. I must see that the toddler and preschool rooms have a plan for each day.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

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A radon test was completed in November 2024 and the results were about the recommended EPA guidelines. The center put in a radon mitigation system in the spring of 2025. The rooms were retested and results were within EPA guidelines. The radon test must be completed in two years.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway near the infant room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/04/23, with compliance on 12/06/23.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Sally Schneider is the cook. She has been with the program for four years. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. The center makes all their own meals and makes their own menus. They use a five week rotation of menus. Ms. Schneider states they have menus for spring, summer, fall and winter. Meals are served in the classroom and dishes are returned to the kitchen to be washed. Teachers dish out the food and serve it to the children.

The kitchen is clean and organized. There is a dishwasher and three sinks available to wash dishes using the three-step method. There are two refrigerators and a chest freezer. There were thermometers present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus are posted. Ms. Schneider has taken the Serv Safe training.

In the infant room the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed in the dishwasher. There is a food sink in the infant room to make bottles. There is a refrigerator in the infant room. There was a thermometer but it appeared to be broken. Please replace this.

The Brightwheel app is used to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two years old. The center just started using the Brightwheel app on the day of my visit. They had been using the ProCare app. All the rooms will use the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. Bleach is used to disinfect the changing tables. I observed or discussed diaper changing procedures with staff members. In the infant room the staff members do not wash the hands of the small infants following a diaper change. I explained to them that all children must have their hands washed with soap and water following a diaper change.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant room and cots are used to nap in the rooms for the older children.

The outdoor play area is naturalistic. There are two fenced areas, one for the older children and one for the toddlers. The toddlers do use the larger area also. There is a playhouse, picnic tables and benches. There are two slides built into a hill. There is a second small hill in the area as well. There is a path for riding toys and helmets are used. There is a sandbox with a cover. There are music centers and chalkboards for the children. There is also an area for vegetable and flower gardens. Shade is provided by trees and there is a small shelter structure available.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There was one outdated physical. There was not a pattern of disregard so these items will not be cited. Two files did not have the form that allows the center to secure emergency care. Ms. McCullick states she is sending out enrollment packets to all the families so they will be renewed in the Brightwheel app. The emergency contact permission will be in the new packet.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members for the toddler and preschool rooms had the children outside to enjoy the nice weather. Staff members were spread out on the playground to provide proper supervision. Staff members were actively engaged in play on the playground with the children. They maintained positive conversation and used positive redirection when necessary. I observed a staff member giving children high-five. In the infant room child friendly music was playing. Staff members were dancing with the children. They also sat on the floor with the children and introduced them to activities. All the staff members were actively engaged with the infants. They were nurturing and held children on their laps and they worked on walking with the older children. All the staff members had great communication and teamwork. The children appeared happy at the center.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 11/30/26. They plan to go for a level 2.

Ms. McCullick states two staff members use the WAGES program. No one is using TEACH.

Ms. McCullick states Josie Guerin is the Education Coach and Coordinator for both Dr. Smith and Little Bulldog in Monona. Ms. Guerin has an MA in early childhood education. She goes into the classrooms and trains new teachers.

Ms. McCullick states the children love coming to the center and they do not want to leave.

Ms. McCullick states the staff members get along with one another.

Ms. McCullick states the center is switching over from the ProCare app to the Brightwheel app today. She will be receiving coaching once a month on Brightwheel.

Ms. McCullick states the center received $30,000 in grants to change the playground. They are waiting for one more grant. Their goal is to have the playground completed by spring 2026. They will be using pour in place fall surfacing and adding climbing equipment.

The center is in a secure building and there are cameras in the rooms, hallway and on the playground.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

Ms. McCullick keeps organized and easy to read staff and children's files and a licensing binder.

Staff members receive a "sign-on bonus" after working three months at the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
In the infant room the staff members do not wash the hands of the small infants following a diaper change. I explained to them that all children must have their hands washed with soap and water following a diaper change.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

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I met with Ms. McCullick following my observation in the classrooms and reviewing files, the licensing binder and handbooks.

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Rebecca Frost

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**.