Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Big Starts Little Hearts Daycare

Provider Name: Big Starts Little Hearts Daycare

Provider No.: 35516

Address: 110 29TH AVENUE DR SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

E-Mail:

County: Linn

Phone Number: 3193292323

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 6/3/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home B
- [X] Registered Child Development Home C
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

1. Basic Overview

Alondra became a Registered childcare provider in 2012. She did report that she provided childcare for a year prior to that as well, as a non-registered provider. In 2023 she and her husband changed to Category C providers. Alondra is not a participant of the IQ4K quality rating system, but she did report she is currently working on her CDA and plans to begin the IQ4K process after the summer. She does participate in the Food Program. Alondra and Joshua currently are willing to care for children of al ages (infant - school age). Alondra did share that after the summer she plans to drop down a level and have less children and at that time does not plan to take school-aged kids. The childcare is provided on the lower level of the home only. They do have an appropriate secondary exit. They do have a fenced in portion of the yard for outdoor play. Alondra does have one cat but she reported the cat does not interact with the childcare children. Alondra has two daughters currently approved as assistants.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Alondra and Joshua had a total of 11 children in care on this date. They do have two of their own that count towards the number of children they are allowed to have at one time. Both teen daughters (both approved assistants) were also present on this date. Joshua left to walk a few children to school and he took a couple of extra children with him in order to maintain an appropriate ratio. The children were involved in free play. This worker did observe appropriate re-direction while I was present.

Alondra has a variety of toys and activities for the children. She described a plan for science activities and experiments for the children over the summer. She also descried that she liked to help the children keep up on their math and reading over the summer.

Alondra's documentation was nicely organized into folders/binders. This worker was able to review her documentation while she and Joshua continued to care for the children. Her contract/handbook/polices was detailed and nicely written. She had more than the required minimum for policies.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.9 (2) b : Within six months of approval, a Physical exam report documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report, which is repeated at least every three years.
Alondra has two daughters that are approved assistants. They both had a current physical, but they were not documented on the approved HHS form.
*Alondra needs to obtain the assistant's physicals on the approved HHS form.

Children's files
110.9 (4) a : Identifying information including, at a minimum, the child's name, birth date, parent's name, address, telephone number, special needs of the child, and the parent's work address and telephone number.
110.9 (4) b : Emergency information including where the parent can be reached, the name, street address, city, and telephone of the child's regular doctor, and the name, telephone number, and relationship to the child of another adult available in case of emergency.
110.9 (4) c : A signed medical consent from the parent authorizing emergency treatment.
Alondra had a file for each child and she had the appropriate forms however for one child the above documentation was not signed by the parents.
*Alondra needs to ensure she has parental signatures on the all the required documentation.

A re-check is not needed at this time. The above corrections should be made within 3 weeks (by 6/24/26) and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check.

If you have questions, you may contact me at 319-429-0749 or via email at christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Alondra shared that she does not transport the childcare children.
Alondra shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool but will use a water table for other water play.
We did discuss safe sleep policies.
We did discuss the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a Category C provider.

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As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. Alondra was in compliance with her EPP.
She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

Recommendations:
Alondra did have some documentation in regard to notifying parents in writing that the state does allow parents to submit an exemption for immunizations but it noted for medical and did not include the option of the religious exemption. This is a new expectation for providers effective 7/1/25 so we did discuss this, and she added the appropriate language to her contract/policies/handbook while this worker was present.

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 6/3/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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 I encourage you to work with Ravyn Phelps with Child Care Resource and Referral if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs. Ravyn Phelps can be reached at 563-594-9683