Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lakin Foundation Childcare Devel Ctr of Griswold

Provider No.: 52459

Address: 1105 North Street, Griswold, IA, 51535

County: Cass

Director's Name: Jacque Howell

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7127782273

E-Mail: lakinofgriswold@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/10/2025

Licensing Period: 05/01/2024 to 05/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/16/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	20	20	20	30	90
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Lakin Foundation Childcare Development Center on 9/10/25. This is a new center that was built and opened on 5-13-2024. It is located next to the Griswold Community School. The Noble Initiative takes care of the center grounds and the Lakin board takes care of the day-to-day functions. Jacque Howell became the director in August 2025. Jacque is a former director at another center and has done in home child care. She has been working in child care since 2012. She is currently working on her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. Child care services are offered to infant to school age children Monday - Friday 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There are 30 children enrolled. I met with Jacque Howell during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The building is a locked facility and a person must be let in. The mission statement is, "At the Lakin Foundation Child Development Center of Griswold, we believe that each child is gifted with a set of individual strengths and unique talents that can flourish with encouragement in an emotionally secure, physically safe, and fun environment." There are five programming rooms. The rooms look great and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment and toys. All rooms were in ratio. The rooms have lesson plans. The curriculum used is the Learning Beyond Paper on ProCare and Iowa Early Learning Standards for lesson plans. The lead teacher in each room makes the lesson plans. There is a motor room. There is a question whether they need fall surfacing for the toys in the room. I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to help with this. Some room changes/adjustments were made to accommodate the number of children. The school age room on the original floor plan is now the large motor activity room and the school age room is now in the gym. The gym/school age room has three toilets and three sinks (two toilets and two sinks were added). The bathroom used in the three-year-old room did not have a handwashing sign, nor did it have paper towels. Please post handwashing signs at every sink. The sanitizer and disinfectant are not clearly labeled in every room. Please clearly label all bottles. Staff said the dwell time is 2 ½ minutes. The daily sheets are on ProCare and they looked good. The center has a laundry room. The children were having fun participating in a variety of activities. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and playing with the children. The ProCare child care app is used for a variety of functions, including communicating with parents. Staff walk the preschool and school age children to and from the Griswold Community School located next door every day.

Health and Safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. All appliances are electric so a fuel burning inspection is not needed. Purell Surface is used for sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff have been trained on emergency policies and procedures. There is a carbon monoxide detector in every room. Radon testing was done 6/30/25 to 7/2/25 and was in the acceptable range. Radon testing is required every five years if it remains below 4.0 pCi/L. The best time for radon testing is November to April. Jacque reports they follow proper medication procedures if a child is on medication. They wash the sheets to the cots and cribs weekly or more often, if needed. Toys are sanitized weekly or more often, if needed. Every

room has its own emergency exit. The emergency numbers and diagrams are posted in every room. Jacque is meeting with Child Care Resource and Referral as an introduction meeting. Jacque has also reached out to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to work with them on medication management. The CCNC is going to test one of the staff for medication certification.

Nutrition:
Company Kitchen provides lunch. The center provides breakfast and snacks. Menus are posted. The kitchen looked great. It was very clean. They have a dish washer/sanitizer. The center follows CACFP guidelines and is in the process of applying for the federal food program. Proper food storage was not being used. Please seal food in an airtight storage container once it is opened.

Playground:
The playground has been built. Monthly playground inspections are being completed. They have a nature-based playground as well as a playground with climbing structures. Turf is used for fall surfacing. They are able to use the school playground next door for the older kids.

Transportation:
The program doesn't provide daily transportation services. They take walking field trips to the Griswold Community School located next door.

Administrative records:
Child files were read and were in excellent order. Two staff files were read. One was missing the federal background check. Please complete the federal background check immediately. Staff meetings and board meetings are held every month.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The new center is a wonderful resource for the community. The Nobile Initiative and the Lakin board provide positive support and guidance. Jacque is very proud and enthusiastic about the center. She has done an excellent job learning the child care rules. She is very organized and has done an excellent job training staff. The center provides a safe environment with daily fun and educational activities. The center applies for grants for equipment and supplies for the center. Staff had wonderful interactions with the children. They were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Staff worked well together and are very excited about the new center. Jacque encourages open communication with parents and staff and feels it is very important for staff to feel appreciated. Staff are interested in the TEACH/WAGES program. The center will apply for IQ4K.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. Jacque's file was reviewed and she did not have a national criminal history completed. Please complete immediately.

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing. The center did not have paper towels in one of the children's restrooms. Please make sure all toilet articles necessary for children's hand washing are available.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. Food was not being stored properly. All food must be stored in an airtight sealed container after opening.

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 5-1-2024 to 5-1-2026.

Jacque emailed me and said she had corrected the areas of concern. She will send me the national background check once she receives the results.

I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to work with Jacque on fall surfacing for the motor room.

Date: 09/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.