Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Stella Sanford CDC - West High

Provider No.: 33349

Address: 2001 Casselman St, Sioux City, IA, 51103

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Daniella Haas & Erika Fuentes

On-Site Supervisor: Connie Maldonado

Phone Number: 6059410676

E-Mail: Dhaas@crittentoncenter.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/27/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/05/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	Year-round	School-Year	Summer Only
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:15 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	29				29
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at this center on 2/27/26. I spoke with Connie Maldonado, who has worked with Stella Sanford for many years and holds a Para Educator certificate. The director, Danelle Haas, was not present during the visit. Ms. Haas is the director for many sites for Stell Sanford center.

Stella Sanford Child Development – West High operates in a bright, welcoming classroom located within West High School. Natural light fills the room, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for the infants and toddlers. Visitors must be buzzed in to enter the school building, and parents or other visitors are buzzed in by staff to access the infant room. The center serves children ages 6 weeks to 24 months and operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. year-round, closing for one week in the summer while floors are waxed.

The room is thoughtfully arranged into three areas—non-mobile infants, mobile infants, and 18–24-month-old children. Each space is organized with intention, providing clear pathways, accessible materials, and cozy areas for play and exploration. Fourteen children are enrolled in the program, and all were present during my visit.

All program areas were observed, including classroom activities, health and safety practices, transportation policies, and administrative documentation. A daily schedule of activities was posted. Staff were actively engaged with the children, often joining them on the floor, offering encouragement, and supporting their play. The children appeared comfortable and connected to the caregivers. Each area contained an abundance of age-appropriate toys arranged neatly and within reach, promoting independence and exploration.
The center transitions children from cribs to cots as they become more mobile and developmentally ready. Young infants are seated in highchairs for meals, while older children use small tables with three-sided chairs. Several changing tables

with sinks are located within the classroom. Staff were observed providing a nurturing, calm, and responsive environment for the children.

Appropriate diapering procedures and sanitary practices were followed. Refrigerators were clean and maintained at the correct temperature. Snacks are provided by the center; lunch is provided by the school system, and breakfast/snacks are provided through the Stella Sanford Center. Good food-storage practices were observed, and menus were posted. The center participates in the CACFP program and follows CACFP nutrition guidelines.

Medication is stored in a locked box or placed out of children's reach, and staff follow proper medication-administration procedures. Tables were sanitized before meals, and both staff and children practiced proper handwashing. The first aid kit was appropriately stocked for minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. A radon test completed by the school was within normal range. The annual heating inspection was not available at the time of the visit; however, it had been completed in November of 25. The school is waiting for the paperwork, and Ms. Maldonado will email when she receives it. The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean, well maintained, and consistently following strong health and safety practices.

The center has a fenced-in, grass-covered playground adjacent to the facility, with shade available. Staff bring toys outdoors to support developmentally appropriate play. Infants are taken for stroller rides through the school hallways in multi-seat strollers that hold up to four children. The center does not take children on field trips.

The center provides more staff than required, demonstrating their strong commitment to offering consistent supervision, individualized attention, and a high-quality learning environment for the children in their care.

Goals include working on IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Caregivers at the center are nurturing, experienced, and committed to building strong relationships with each child. Activities are thoughtfully planned to support early growth—socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively. Children explore, play, and learn in a clean, organized, and developmentally appropriate space filled with age-friendly toys and materials.

I observed warm and effective conflict-resolution practices in the classroom. When a child threw a toy, staff responded quickly and calmly, stepping in with gentle guidance to ensure everyone's safety. They helped the child understand the expectations while offering reassurance and redirection. Their approach was nurturing, patient, and supportive, reflecting the strong relationships they have built with the children and the positive environment they work hard to maintain.

All staff were seated on the floor with the children, actively engaging them in play, conversation, and hands-on activities. Their warm interactions and genuine involvement created a nurturing atmosphere where the children appeared comfortable, supported, and eager to participate.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d: 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. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children. The gate into the mobile infant area needs to be fixed as it is missing a wheel. I did observe staff step over this gate with a child in her arms. I did provide verbal direction to staff that this is not acceptable and a risk of fall.

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

Targeted assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Connie Maldonado her oversight of behavior management as it relates to helping childcare staff understand expectations, manage frustrations, and maintain positive interactions with children. Connie shared that she places strong emphasis on clear communication and ongoing support, ensuring staff fully understand the center's expectations for behavior management and positive redirection. She noted that behavior guidance is addressed during staff orientation and remains a regular topic of discussion throughout the year.

Connie demonstrated good insight into the importance of monitoring staff practice and recognizing when a staff member may be feeling overwhelmed. She is attentive to the needs of her team and is quick to offer breaks when she observes signs of frustration. Staff also feel comfortable approaching Connie to request a break when needed, which supports healthier interactions with the children.

Connie provides tips, modeling, and practical strategies based on her experience, especially when staff are working with a child who exhibits challenging or negative behaviors. She described a strong, collaborative team culture in which staff support one another, communicate openly, and step in to help when needed. This teamwork contributes to a calm, consistent environment for the children and reflects a purposeful and ongoing commitment to effective behavior management.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for support.

Please email licensing consultant confirming those items that fall below standard have been corrected by 04/01/26

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 02/27/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.