Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Cub Cadet Childhood Center

Provider No.: 52263

Address: 1441 Gull AVE, Latimer, IA, 50452

County: Franklin

Director's Name: Abby Meyer

On-Site Supervisor: Becca Kaefring, Jessica Malimanck

Phone Number: 6415796085

E-Mail: meyera@cal.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 07/07/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/04/2024

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	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

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	13	18	51	80	162
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was made to the Cub Cadet Childhood Center on 07-07-26. The center director and school principal, Abby Meyer was not in on the day of my visit but I was able to meet with the on-site supervisor Becca Kaefring. Abby is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and on-going training. The program is owned and 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 50 children enrolled in the program served by 13 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 with the completion of renovations. The infants and 2 year old children are now being served in the main school building in the classrooms previously used for 3 & 4 year old preschool respectively. The modular building previously used by those age groups will be removed from the property. 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 are used for the formal preschool programming, and then school age programming at the end of the day and during the summer. The infant room has a changing table, and sinks present in the room. The two year old room has a changing station and a restroom directly accessible from the room. The formal preschool classrooms and school age children use restroom facilities located 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 rooms have access to a connecting foyer with a direct access to the outdoors. The preschool rooms 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.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Engagement & Programming
Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. The curriculum identifies a general focus theme and specific activities to implement that theme. The teachers did follow the planned schedule with moving through different activities but were flexible with respect to changes such as going out earlier in the day to take advantage of cooler temperatures. Good interactions were observed in each classroom with the staff being engaged with the children either attending to their needs, or implementing the planned curriculum activities. This included options such as the teachers playing with the two year olds, preparing to take the preschool and school age children to the local library, and supervising and assisting children with breakfast and restroom breaks. During the staff would step into the hall or doorway of the classroom to watch children as they walked down the hallway to use the restroom, or put things in their bags. While many of the children are of an age that they are frequently making use of restrooms unsupervised during the school day staff were aware of the need to provide supervision. 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. This approach coupled with the active engagement resulted in there not being any observed behavioral concerns during the visit and those situations which potential to escalate were easily redirected. Each of the teachers spoke with the children using calm tones, and positive word choices. The teachers did appear to know the children on an individual level and presented positive and energetic attitudes when engaging with the children.

Health & Safety
Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and practices do need to be reviewed. During the changing process the teacher did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials, did not allow the disinfectant sufficient time to dwell to be effective, and held the child while spraying chemical cleaners. These practices do increase the risks for cross contamination, and exposure to chemical agents. 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. The center had removed the toys and items with small parts that could be a choking risk to younger 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 diapering, restroom use, 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.

Playground
The center completed renovations of the playground space having removed several older climbing structures and installing new options for both younger preschool children and older school age children. The program has identified with the teachers which age groups are allowed on which structures. A shade structure was also installed. While the daycare is able to make use of the equipment the playground is maintained by the school. In addition to the climbing structures the children also have access to a large open grassy area, and paved areas. The children can also make use of the school gymnasium.

Nutrition
All meals are prepared and served by the school cafeteria both during the school year and the summer. 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. The teachers did not eat with the children but supervision was provided at the tables.

Administration
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, emergency numbers, schedules, curriculum, diapering, and handwashing were also present. 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. Children's files contain all required information, and staff are using photos in the Procare app to document daily disposition and activities. Staff files were also reviewed and found to contain all required documentation with the exception of several that had expired background checks. Inspection logs and certificates were were available and current. The center does not have a radon mitigation system and tested levels were within acceptable limits. The parent

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handbook was reviewed and while the center did have all required written policies some did need to be expanded to include all required elements.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Several files had background checks that had recently expired and needed to be renewed.

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.
-- Staff did not deglove between handling soiled and clean items, did not allow the disinfectant product sufficient time to dwell to be effective, and used chemical cleaners while holding the infant. This increases the risk for cross contamination and disease exposure, and exposure to chemical agents.

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

A list of required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided to the center.

Becca stated that she would ensure that background checks were renewed for those staff that need them.

Proper diapering procedures were reviewed, and options such as acquiring a timer were discussed.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect 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.

Date: 07/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.