Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Akron Children's Center

Provider No.: 29663

Address: 270 N 4th St, Akron, IA, 51001

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Casey Jacobs

On-Site Supervisor: Amy Hoffman

Phone Number: 7125682990

E-Mail: childrenscenter@premieronline.net
clewison.childrenscenter@premieronline.net

HHS Visit Date: 11/21/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/06/2025

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	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	16	12	32	20	80
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit on 11/21/25 at the Akron Child Care Center. I was able to meet their new director, Casey Jacobs. Casey has many years of experience in the childcare world and has made the transition from in home daycare to the Director of this center. Casey has done a great job of getting all the necessary trainings completed as well as organizing this center. There are 52 children enrolled and 24 children present at the time of my visit.

The center serves children infants through school age Monday through Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm. Akron Children's Center is located in a facility specifically designed for childcare. They offer a 3-year-old preschool program Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30am - 11:30 am. This is a locked facility, and parents have a code to enter otherwise you need to be let in by staff. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

There was a sufficient quantity of toys and equipment available for the number of children present. A daily schedule of activities was clearly posted. Throughout the rooms, educational materials were displayed, including colors, shapes, the five senses, a globe, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet. Staff were observed actively engaging with the children—assisting with various activities, conversing with them throughout the visit, leading exercises, reinforcing rules, facilitating learning experiences, and reading stories. Overall, staff demonstrated positive and supportive interactions with the children. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, enhanced by an abundance of natural light streaming through large windows. The rooms were thoughtfully arranged to promote both learning and comfort, with cozy reading corners, child-sized furniture, and clearly defined activity areas. Walls were decorated with colorful educational materials, including posters, children's artwork, and thematic displays that reflected current learning topics. Soft lighting, calming colors, and organized shelves contributed to a peaceful and inviting environment that supported both play and structured activities.

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The center uses a theme-based curriculum designed to support children's developmental milestones through engaging, age-appropriate activities. Each theme integrates learning across multiple domains—such as language, math, science, and social-emotional development—while encouraging creativity, exploration, and critical thinking. Themes are rotated regularly and often reflect seasons, holidays, or topics of interest to the children, helping to keep learning fresh and relevant. Activities are hands-on and interactive, promoting active participation and fostering a love of learning. The center promotes learning through play by offering a variety of well-organized learning centers that encourage exploration, creativity, and skill development. These centers include areas such as dramatic play, blocks, art, science, literacy, and sensory exploration. Each center is intentionally designed to support different areas of development—such as fine motor skills, problem-solving, language acquisition, and social interaction—while allowing children to make choices and engage in hands-on, meaningful experiences. Through play, children learn to collaborate, express themselves, and build foundational academic and life skills in a developmentally appropriate and engaging way.

Meals are prepared on-site, and they follow CACFP guidelines. Kitchen is clean and well organized. Good food storage was observed. Refrigerators and freezer were at an appropriate temperature. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test and annual heating inspection are complete The center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained.

They have two fenced-in playgrounds adjacent to the building. One for the younger children which has a slide, playhouse, water table and sandbox and turf for surfacing. The larger play area has a climbing structure, sandbox, music, and turf for surfacing. They also have shed to store outside toys. The children have access to shade on the playground

The center will take walks to places in town, but do not transport. They do coordinate with the local public school for children who attend before or after programing.

A goal is to continue to increase enrollment. Since Casey began as director the enrollment has increased from 15 to 52. This speaks to the dedication of this staff.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

One of the program’s key strengths is the dedication and leadership of the director and staff, who have done an excellent job of engaging the community for support. Their ongoing efforts to build strong relationships with families, local organizations, and community partners have created a supportive network that enhances the overall quality and sustainability of the program.

The center is actively exploring new ideas and strategies to enhance its program and better meet the needs of the children and families it serves. This commitment to continuous improvement reflects a proactive approach to early childhood education, with staff open to innovation, feedback, and professional development opportunities.

Staff maintain open lines of communication with local schools to ensure that children at the center are developing the skills and behaviors expected in a school setting. This collaboration supports a smooth transition to kindergarten and helps align the center’s practices with early learning standards

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

The Blue classroom needs handwashing signs.

Please use appropriate food storage containers after it is open with a date.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Director needs to email corrections of items that fall below standards by 01-30-25. It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for support.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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

Date: 11/25/2025

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**.