# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Garner Community Christian Child Care
Provider No.: 48449

Address: 580 E US HWY 18, Garner, IA, 50438

County: Hancock

Director's Name: Lauren Hammitt
On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6419251270
E-Mail: director@gc4childcare.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/13/2026

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

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 11/07/2023

Comments:

**Report Visit Type:**

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

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

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

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**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 | 14 | | 19 | | 33 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Garner Community Christian Child Care center on 02-13-26 where met with the center director, Lauren Hammitt. Lauren took over the director role in 2025 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood care. The program is located in the Evangelical Free Church in Garner but is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a separate board of directors. The building is an open multiple use facility that has had other programs in operation when the daycare is operating but none were present on the day of my visit. While those programs do have access to common areas such as restrooms and hallways that are also used by the daycare the staff do ensure that there is separation so that there is no intrusion into the programming classrooms, and that the daycare children are supervised at all times. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are currently 36 children enrolled in the program served by 13 staff. All aspects of the center subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of the building, and arrangement of classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. It is noted that the program is working to complete construction of a new facility and does plan to relocate to that building later this year. The program is currently making use of three classrooms. Each classroom was observed to be clean with no concerns related to maintenance or design. The infant, 2 year old room, and the room being used as an office have direct secondary egress to the outdoors. The preschool room has multiple exits opening onto the main corridor with one exit that is next to an exterior exit. All exits were maintained so that they were clear of obstruction, and opened easily and freely. The preschool room has a folding curtain divider that can be used to separate the space into two rooms but which is generally left open. The two year old room has a counter unit with a wall mounted gate that defines the main programming space from a changing area and bathroom access. Each room either has windows in the egress doors, or installed in the exterior walls that provide natural light and a view of the outdoors. All windows are sealed units that do not open. There is a pass-through restroom between the infant and toddler rooms, and additional restrooms for the preschool classroom are located off the main hallway. Due to the multiple use aspect of the building children are escorted to the restroom as needed. A sink is also available in the infant room to facilitate food and bottle preparation. Each room has an open floor plan with toys and materials arranged along the walls so that there are no blind areas.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

All staff were observed to be engaged with the children and attending to the children's needs. This included presenting planned curriculum activities, as well as direct care such as providing meals or changing diapers. In general the staff were very positive in their attitude and interactions with the children. One issue that was noted was one employee who was speaking with a child in a stern tone and manner that was discussed with Lauren as standing out in relation to other observed

interactions. It was identified that the employee had been speaking to her own child with regard to the child's behavior. It was discussed that while it is understood that parents do have more leeway with regard to parenting their children some parenting techniques such as the use of corporal punishment would not be allowed in child care and if a child is enrolled and a parent is working at a center then they would be required to follow the requirements and restrictions of the center. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age

Good health and safety practices were generally observed. During the visit I was not able to observe a diaper change but the required procedures posting was present. Staff did clean and sanitize tables before and after meal service. Staff did ensure that children washed their hands after restroom use, and other times as needed. First aid kits were present and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room for children under 12 months of age. Older children made use of cots for napping. All cots and cribs had appropriately fitted bedding. A good variety of toys and materials were present in each classroom that were observed to be in good repair but there were items in the infant room that were not appropriate and need to be removed. This included items and toys with parts that could break off which would be less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length which would be considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. In addition the center had an infant walker present which is prohibited and which was removed at the time of the visit.

The program makes use of the church kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. Good food storage and handling practices were observed in both the kitchen and classroom areas. Meals are served in the classrooms. A copy of the prepared menu was posted and identified a good variety of nutritious snack and meal options.

The center has a small defined playground area enclosed with chain link fencing, as well as access to a large open grassy area where the children can play. The equipment present was limited due in part to the winter conditions and the playground not being used at this time. Support posts have been installed where an awning can be hung during the summer months for shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, License Certificate, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were present and posted in an area that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contacts, handwashing, diapering, disease exposure, daily schedule, curriculum, and menu were also present. The center does maintain self-audits of child and staff files and a random selection of both were reviewed and compared to the self-audits which were found to be accurate. The self audit for the child files identified all to contain all required documentation. In reviewing staff files 5 needed documentation of initial or renewed required trainings. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current though emergency fire and tornado drills had not been conducted for several months. The center policy handbooks were reviewed and while all required written policies were present the Parent Handbook should be updated to expand information for several policies, and identify requirements for staff training or reference where parents can find that information. Policies that should be updated include responding to Major/Minor Medical/Dental injurie, Incident Reporting, and Immunization Notification for Exemptions,

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Documentation needed for 5 files.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Documentation of fire and tornado drills was not present for the months of November and December 2025, or January 2026.

109.11(2)a: The center will provide sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture. It must meet the developmental, activity and special needs of the children.
-- Items or toys with small parts that can break off that are less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length would be considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Infant walkers are prohibited and must be removed.

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

The center has scheduled training for 1st Aid/CPR for those staff that need renewed training.

The infant walker was removed on the day of the visit, and staff stated they would assess and remove toys that could be choking hazards.

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

A full license is recommended 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 following year.

Date: 02/20/2026

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**.