Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Formative Years Growing and Learning Center

Provider No.: 16813

Address: 4510 Todd Dr, Ames, IA, 50014

County: Story

Director's Name: Amy Parks

On-Site Supervisor: Julie Childs/Olivia S.

Phone Number: 5152923609

E-Mail: enrollment@formativeyearsglc.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/27/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/12/2024

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Ames FD-Jason Ziph

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	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 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	26	14	58	30	128
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual licensing visit was conducted 8/27/26. Director Amy Parks was present through the entire visit.

Formative Years first began in this location in 1990 and was purchased by Cindy Kniss in 2017. Cindy owns another center in the eastern side of Iowa as well. Amy Parks is the director of this center, she became the on-site supervisor in 2010 and transitioned into the director role in 2020. Amy has a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies, she has worked for Formative years for 15 years. Amy meets qualifications to be the director. Julie Childs on an on-site supervisor.

The center provides care for children aged 6 weeks to school-age children, Monday through Friday 6:30 AM-6:00 PM. The center provides for a UPK classroom, this is for three hours a day during the school year and then the room is used for wrap around care as well.

Room observations: The center uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings and uses the Bright Wheel application to communicate with parents. The classrooms were nicely arranged and offered a variety of toys and play centers. The children appeared content and responsive to the consistent structure in the rooms maintained by staff. Staff were observed to be actively engaged with the children, either coming in or going out to play outdoors during the visit and for lunch.

Nutrition Practices: The offers morning snack, lunch and after noon snack from an on-site kitchen. The children are served family-style meals in their classrooms by staff, who are interacting with the children throughout lunch/cleanup. The center is using menus consistent with CACFP guidelines and menus seasonally rotate. The kitchen does open to a school/pre-school age room however is separated by a pony-wall. The kitchen and food storage were organized and clean.

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Center Playground: This center has several outdoor areas for play, divided by ages. The areas meant for younger children were enclosed with chain link. However, the area for play meant for older children is not completely enclosed and is immediately adjacent to a city street with a speed limit that varies between 25-45 MPH. The director stated that the owner is working on a plan to complete the area of this playground that still needs enclosed. The center has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate out-door activities. . The playground offers natural shade and some shade from the eves on the building.

Transportation: The center owns and maintains vehicles to assist with field trips.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has a secure entrance and new electronic monitoring for the entire center.

There are several long-term teachers. The teachers were observed to work well together.

The owner and Director work well as a team.

The director is very organized and is supportive to staff members and involved in daily operations/interactions with the children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must:Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water.Include safe play equipment and an area of shade.Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.

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

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--The school-age playground is not completely enclosed; it is immediately adjacent to a city street with posted speed limits between 25 and 45 MPH. The director indicated that the owner is working to completely enclose this area
--The center will provide licensing information when the playground enclosure is completed.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed in June of 2022 All rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

A heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) inspection was completed professionally 7/24/26.

Date: 09/08/2026

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.