Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Red Oak Child Development Center

Provider No.: 51098

Address: 400 West 2nd Street, Red Oak, IA, 51566

County: Montgomery

Director's Name: Gayle Allensworth

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7126236630

E-Mail: gallensworth@redoakcdc.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/03/2025

Licensing Period: 08/01/2024 to 08/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/02/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] 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
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	45	17	40	43	145
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Red Oak Child Development Center on 9/3/25. The center opened on 8/17/20 and is located in the Red Oak Early Childhood Center. The center is owned by the Montgomery County Child Development Association and has active board members. The building also has some public school classrooms. The program provides child care services to infant age children to school age children from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There are 115 children enrolled. Gayle Allensworth is the director. She started as a volunteer in November 2024 and became the director in April 2025. Gayle has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a Master's Degree in Instructional Consultation and Administration, and a Specialist with Superintendent licensure. She has been working with children for 30 years.

Observation of rooms:
There are eight programming rooms and an additional room is used for school age children, if needed. All of rooms were in ratio. The center changed so they now have one infant room and added another three-year-old room. All program rooms looked great and were nicely furnished with a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys, furniture, equipment, and supplies. The rooms were bright and colorful. Children's art was displayed. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and attentive to their needs. Some of the rooms were observed during nap time. In one room, staff's view of the children was obstructed. Please make sure you are able to have direct observation of the children while they are napping. The daily sheets looked good. Staff in each room develop the lesson plans/activities. One of the rooms had incomplete lesson plans. Please make sure all lesson plans are complete. The center is full and has a waiting list.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented but not consistently. Please practice and document all drills monthly. Since you are in a building that has public school classrooms, the Department of Education is responsible for maintaining radon testing. You will need to make sure it is completed and that the scores are under a 4.0 pCi/L. The building has all electrical appliances. The center follows the medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication. Please post hand washing diagrams at all sinks. There were pillows in front of an emergency exit which is a health and safety hazard. Please make sure all exits are unobstructed. Please make sure all evacuation cribs are empty in the event of an emergency. The center was not following the correct sanitizing and disinfecting procedures. Please make sure you are using the three-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water, you must follow the mixing instructions on the specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting - they are mixed at different strengths. Bleach/water must be mixed daily. You can discuss other product options for sanitizing and disinfecting with your child care nurse consultant. Toys are sanitized weekly. The infant room's toys are sanitized three times a week. If a toy is mouthed, it is set aside until it is sanitized.

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Nutrition:
Lunch is catered from Company Kitchen/Treat America. The center provides breakfast and two snacks. The meals are served in the programming rooms. Menus are posted. The lunches that are brought from home are refrigerated. The center is on the federal food program (CACFP). Food was not properly sealed. Please follow proper food storage guidelines. The kitchen has no running water. This is a health and safety hazard. Please fix the water.

Playground:
There are two playground areas. The toddler playground is expanding. There is rubber mulch for surfacing on the toddler playground. The one-year-old children never play at the same time the two-year-old children play. There is wood mulch on the older children's playground. Shade tarps are used. Monthly playground safety checks are not being completed. Please begin completing and documenting these monthly.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Nine children's files were read and all but two were incomplete. One was missing emergency contact information, two were missing doctor and/or dentist contact information, three were missing physical exams, and five were missing permission to secure emergency care. Four staff files were read and two were incomplete. Please make sure all physicals, training, and background checks are completed. The National Record Checks must be done every four years. Please complete background checks immediately. Please have all required training completed by 11/1/25. Physicals are required within six months of starting and every three years thereafter. Please make sure all staff have their physicals completed within the six months prior to being hired and then every three years after. There are monthly staff meetings. The center closes early on the first Wednesday of every month for staff meetings. The center is an IQ4K Level 1 program. The center uses ProCare child care software. The center has an active board. The center closes one day per quarter for staff building and then they deep clean the center in the afternoons.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is a wonderful resource for the community. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. Gayle was very eager to learn the areas they are not excelling at so she can make the necessary changes. Gayle is very passionate about the center and does it for the safety of the children. She wants to make sure her staff provide safe care for the children. Gayle believes she has amazing staff. Nine people want to get their Child Development Associate's certificate and four want to hear more about it. They are coming to meet with staff on 9/29/25 to discuss with staff. Two people have TEACH. Gayle wants to create a safe place for staff, so they want to stay. Gayle believes the staff are as important as the children. Staff earn PTO after one year of employment. Leadership meetings are held weekly. The center has a room for nursing mothers. Grants are received for updating laptops, mulch surfacing, fencing, staff bonuses, etc.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. Federal fingerprint background checks are due at the time of hire and then every four years thereafter or if the center becomes aware of a transgression.

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment): Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed. Four staff files were reviewed and three were missing current CPR/first aid training and one was missing Universal Precautions. CPR and first aid training are due within 90 days of employment and then must renewed every three years thereafter. Universal Precautions is due within 90 days of employment and must be repeated annually.

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109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. Four files were reviewed, and two files did not have current physical exams. Staff must complete a physical exam within six months of hire and every three years thereafter.

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent. Nine files were reviewed, and several did not have authorization that either identified who to contact in an emergency or it did not allow the center to secure emergency care in case of an emergency, and a parent/guardian could not be contacted.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. There were three files that did not have valid physical exams on file. Any child under school age must have a physical within 30 days of admission to the center and every year thereafter.

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. Fire and tornado drills were being completed and documented but not consistently. All fire and tornado drills must be done monthly and documented.

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing. In one of the rooms, the room was set up so staff were unable to see a child while sleeping. Staff must have an unobstructed view of the children at all times so they can see that they are breathing.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Monthly playground inspections were not being completed. Playground inspections are due monthly and must be documented.

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. The center was not following the correct sanitizing and disinfecting procedures and were not using the three-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. It appeared the rooms were using sanitizer at times when disinfectant should have been used. Please consider posting signs so staff know when to sanitize and when to disinfect.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. Food was not sealed properly after opening. After opening, please make sure food is sealed in an airtight container.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 8-1-2024 to 8-1-2026.

The lack of running water in the kitchen results in dirty dishes accumulating and not managed until the end of the day. This

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conflicts with IAC 441-109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent the transmission of disease, infestation of insects and rodents, and the spoilage of food. The center is required to develop a plan to obtain running water in the kitchen to avoid a citation and potential negative action.

Please complete all necessary background checks and email me when they are complete. These should be done immediately. Please have all required training completed by 11/1/25. Please email me when all required training is complete.

A referral was made to Child Care Resource and Referral to work with the center on creating lesson plans. A referral was made to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to work on proper procedures for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Date: 09/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.