Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Play and Learn Children's Center

Provider No.: 16857

Address: 301 Alexander AVE STE A, Ames, IA, 50010

County: Story

Director's Name: Lacey Wyckoff

On-Site Supervisor: Allison Hauge

Phone Number: 5152334431

E-Mail: amesplayandlearn@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/21/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/27/2025

Comments: A fire inspection is due every three years. Completed by Ames Fire Dept 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	34	18	30	12	94
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 1-21-26; Lacey Wycoff and Allison Hauge were present.

Wendy Wyckoff has been the owner of this center since October 2013. Wendy has stepped back into the role of full time Director as of September of 2022. Lacey Wyckoff is the co-director as of January 2023. Lacey has ten plus years of child care experience and has experience assisting with administration. Allison Hauge is the assistant director, beginning in 2025. Allison has several years of child care experience and has a early childhood education certification. They meet the criteria for their roles.

This center is open from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. They provide care for infants through school age children. They offer full and part time care.

Play and Learn Children's center has a designated staff who assists with curriculum ideas and lesson plans. The center does not use a specific curriculum, however bases their lesson plans and themes off of Early Learning Standards. The center has weekly lesson plans for the classrooms. Pro-Care is the application used to communicate with parents. Play and Learn CC has renovated some restrooms and surfaces. The staff were engaged with assisting children with rest and the children were content. There was a aerosol air freshener in one classroom that was removed as we observed the classrooms. There was also a toilet that had newly stopped flushing, which the director clarified and will seek repair. Otherwise the center was observed clean and organized.

Play and Learn CC offers morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. The menus appear to be inline with CACFP

guidelines as this center participates in the CACFP food program (healthy/balanced meal requirements). Meals/snacks are served family style in the classrooms. The kitchen was clean and nicely organized; dry and cold storage were clean.

Playground: The playground is enclosed with chain link fencing and offers play equipment and other outdoor toys. The playground was covered with snow during this visit.

Transportation/Field Trips; no transportation is provided. There have been field trips to the city library and the center then utilizes the HIRTA bus.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The staff are nurturing and caring. The staff are invested in the center and take pride in their classrooms.

The center has a secure entrance and has video monitoring.

The administrative staff work well together.

Center staff know their families well and work hard to build and maintain a positive, trusting relationship with their families.

Play and Learn CC utilizes several child care provider incentives: Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. Along with, TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There was an aerosol air freshener within the programming space and accessible; which was noticed while observing the classrooms and removed immediately. This is atypical of the center as otherwise this center was very clean and organized.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Discussion occurred with a non-flushing toilet, which the director would seek repairs.

Radon testing occurred 9-29-23; all rooms testing below 4.0 Cutoff.

Date: 01/23/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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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**.