Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Healthy Steps Childcare Center

Provider No.: 53222

Address: 1509 NW Church Street, Leon, IA, 50144

County: Decatur

Director's Name: Destiny Northey

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6414463300

E-Mail: dnorthey@d-c-h.org

HHS Visit Date: 08/05/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2026 to 07/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/18/2026

Comments: conducted by State Fire Inspector, due every 3 years

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 6:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	12	12	14	20	58
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Healthy Steps Childcare Center opened in July 2026 when PTO was given. It contains classrooms for infants through school age children. A licensing visit was conducted on 8/6/26. HHS met with Director Northey and a hospital employee who assists with administrative duties. Destiny Northey is the Director of the center. She has experience in licensed childcare since 2024. She has a BA in Psychology / Sociology.

At this time the program has no OSS. One will be appointed as children are accepted into the program.

Center Nutrition: The center is aware CACFP requirements must be met for each meal and snack. Menus should be posted Refrigerators and freezers were clean and contained thermometers. No food was stored on the floor, open or expired. The center prepares all meals.

Center Health and Safety: The Director is aware of medication procedures. First aid kits are in every room and should be taken outdoors with the children. Radon testing has not been conducted but should be so that a level can be measured. Ventilation and lighting are adequate. Capacity for each room allows for every child to have at least 35 square feet each. Outdoor capacity allows for every child to have at least 75 square feet each. Each room should have capacity and ratio signs.

Center Outdoor Play Area: The outdoor play has adequate fall surfacing beneath climbing equipment. It is fenced. The outdoor weather watch is used to determine if outdoor play is suitable on questionable weather days. A first aid kit and emergency contacts should be taken outdoors. Children must not be allowed to go in areas of the outdoor play area that are not observable by staff (around the corner of the building). Playground inspections must be documented.

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Administrative Records: Staff and child files are stored in an application. All current staff have SING checks and fingerprints. Postings were reviewed. The center does not have an Emergency Preparedness Plan. All staff should be trained on the plan and signed and dated acknowledgement of such.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center now has a phone. Parents may contact them directly to enroll children. The program may also be reached by email. The CCR&R website tracks center vacancies and links parents to programs with openings for children by age.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.10(7): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are:In the center.In the outdoor play area.On field trips (away from the center). No kits in the center were labeled. All kits should be labeled.

A No Smoking sign should be posted at the front door.

2. 109.10(13)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents and lost or abducted children.Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for:Evacuation to safely leave the facility.Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation.Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue.Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation.Communication and reunification with parents or other adults responsible for the children, which includes emergency telephone numbers.Continuity of operations.To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs. The center does not have an EPP.

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. Tornado and fire drills have not yet been conducted. They should be practiced and documented immediately.

109.10(13)c: Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans. Once the EPP is written all staff should be trained on the plan.

3. 109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Outdoor play inspections have not been documented yet.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

This center will open with a full license. All violations above must be corrected in a timely manner. All HHS rules should be followed throughout the licensing year.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant. They offer centers assistance with meeting HHS regulations, IQ4K, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org Michelle Greenough is your consultant. Consultant Greenough visited the center prior to opening and provided information to the program on IQ4K. The center is aware they may access her for any questions or consultation.

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HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants. CCNC Heather Marsh completed the following this past year: Heather d'Auteuil <hdAuteuil@maturaia.org> is the Child Care Nurse Consultant for this site. She visited the center prior to opening and offered services.

Director Northey and I discussed behavioral interventions. She stated, "SCICAP Head Start takes a proactive approach to behavior management that starts at new hire orientation and continues throughout the year. Staff receive both Conscious Discipline and PBIS training at hire and receive refresher training during annual pre-service training. In addition to annual and new-hire training staff have access to our Behavior Specialist and Education Coordinator to discuss behavior concerns with students in the classroom. Staff are encouraged to step out of the classroom for a short period if they feel that they are becoming frustrated or need to de-escalate themselves before re-engaging with a student. All center staff are observed many times throughout the school year and are given feedback to address any concerns."

Director Northey is consulting with other area directors. This is duly noted.

Date: 08/07/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

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**.