Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Rising Stars Learning Center LLC

Provider No.: 52499

Address: 140 W Kanesville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA, 51503

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Shala Tolle

On-Site Supervisor: Samantha Fries and Nicole Eccles

Phone Number: 7124066388

E-Mail: shala@risingstarslc.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/25/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2026 to 05/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/07/2024

Comments:

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 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	19	72	21	0	112
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Rising Stars Learning Center LLC on 3/25/26. Rising Stars Learning Center LLC moved to Community of Christ Church and opened on 6/1/25. Shala Tolle is the director. She had a registered child care home for many years and prior to moving to Community of Christ, she had a one-story center at a different location that opened on 5/1/24. Shala is working on her CDA. The on-site supervisors are Nicole Eccles and Samantha Fries. The center provides child care to children infant age to school age, Monday – Friday, 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM. There are 90 children enrolled.

Observation of rooms:
There were 49 children at the center on the day of my visit. The center has six programming rooms on three floors at the church. Infant room 1 (six weeks until approximately eight months), Infant room 2 (approximately eight months to 12-15 months), and Infant room 3 (12-15 months to two years old) are all on the main floor as is the gym. Upstairs is the Farmer Room, which is for two-year-old children, and Sweet Treats Room and Under the Sea Room which are 3–4-year-old rooms. The children are split between the two rooms depending on their developmental level. The kitchen and lunch room are in the basement. The daily sheets are on the Procare child care app and they looked good. Toys are sanitized throughout the day and run through the dishwasher at the end of the day. There was a variety of toys for different ages and developmental levels. The rooms had lesson plans. Shala, with the assistance of the teachers, make all of the lesson plans. All of the rooms had the necessary postings. Children's art was displayed in the different rooms. It was discovered that sheets, blankets, and personal items are touching which increases the chance of spreading infestation and illnesses. I spoke with Shala about possible solutions in each room to make sure no sheets, blankets, or personal belongings are touching. The center was following the correct sanitizing and disinfecting procedures and is 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. They use Purell

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Surface during the day but use bleach water for deep cleaning or at the end of the day. Bleach water is made daily in each room. You must follow the mixing instructions on the specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting as 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.

Nutrition:
There are a kitchen and a cook. The center is not on the federal food program but follows the CACFP guidelines. Menus are posted.

Health and safety:
Shala reported they follow medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication. Fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented. Three radon tests were completed. They did one on each floor and they were all below 4.0 pCi/L; however, one needs to be completed in each programming room in the basement and on the main floor. One needs to be done upstairs. Please review the radon testing guidelines I sent you on 3/30/26 to make sure you complete the number of tests required. Shala said she will review and complete radon testing as required. An annual fuel burning inspection was completed. Make sure you have all of the required emergency policies and procedures and that staff are trained in them.

Playground:
There are two different playground areas for the children depending on their age. There is also a gym. There are riding toys and balls inside the gym. On the older outdoor playground area, there was a climbing structure that needs fall surfacing. Shala will talk with the Child Care Nurse Consultant for assistance with fall surfacing. Also in the older play area there are riding toys, balls, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and they will bring out parachutes. Monthly playground safety inspections are completed. Please make sure sticks and debris are picked up every day from the play areas.

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

Administrative records:
Shala has staff meetings on a regular basis and she maintains daily contact with the staff. Three staff files were read and were in good order. Two were missing their annual personal development hours. Ten children's files were read and were in good order. Make sure you have a copy of the Iowa DHHS child care policies and procedures handbook and that you are familiar with the rules and regulations.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Shala is very proud of her center. She has worked hard to learn the DHHS child care licensing rules. Shala has received consultation and training from resources i.e. Child Care Resource and Referral and her Child Care Nurse Consultant. Shala has the nurse consultant review diapering with new staff. The noncompliance items from last year's licensing visit were reviewed and all items have been corrected. Shala would like to apply for IQ4K in the future. Shala believes her staff work well as a team. The center has a good relationship with the church.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Three files were reviewed and two did not have the required annual training hours.

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. There was on piece of climbing equipment in the older ages play area that did not have fall surfacing.

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

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended from 5/1/26 to 5/1/28.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Shala Tolle their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. The center has cameras in the office and they are able to monitor each room. Shala and the on-site supervisors walk through the center to make sure staff are able to manage whatever may be going on. There are walkie talkies in every room to call for help. There are monthly staff meetings and they discuss proper discipline and redirection. Staff sign off every month and are given a quiz.

Date: 03/30/2026

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**.