Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Smarty Pants Childcare

Provider No.: 52544

Address: 3805 Lower Beaver RD, Des Moines, IA, 50310

County: Polk

Director's Name: Alivia McVicker

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5154280082

E-Mail: smartypantsdsm@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/13/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/13/2026

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
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	20	30	7	57
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Smarty Pants Child Care opened in July 2024. The center is located in a single standing building, which has a secured entrance. Lenae Arku is the owner. Lenae owns several other centers in the Des Moines area also. Alivia McVicker is the director at this center. There is going to be an assistant director at this location as Alivia is the director at Sugar Babies Academy also.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's visit. Current enrollment is 35. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. The center is currently using four classrooms. The other classrooms are used for storage, for some limited large motor play and for staff offices.

Alivia assisted with today's visit. Jamiah Shields and Lanae also assisted with the visit.
The infant classroom is divided into two areas, the non-mobiles and mobile infants. There were four infants on each side. One staff was working on each side of the room.
The 2's classroom had five children present. There was one staff working in this classroom.
The 3/4's class had fourteen children present. There was one five year old in the room also. There were two or three staff working in this class during the visit.
Children were observed during lunch, during some transition times and playing outdoors.

The center has it's own kitchen. All the center's owned by Lenae Arku follow the same menu. Menus reviewed showed compliance with CACFP. Lunch served today was little smokies, mashed potatoes, mandarin oranges, wheat bread and milk.

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The center's playground has fencing. There is a small amount of wood mulch on the playground. The depth of the mulch is minimal and there can't be any toys that need surfacing material. There was one toy that required surfacing and this toy was removed during the visit.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center uses Brightwheel for increased communication with parents. The center has the ability to utilize staffing from the other centers when needed.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.
Some staff haven't completed required training in required time frame.
CPR/First Aid training is scheduled for August.

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.
One staff was missing a physical.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Some children's files were missing dental information.

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.
Children's files need reviewed. Several are needing physicals.

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 a teeter totter on the playground, which requires surfacing material.
This outdoor toy was removed during the visit.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The two year old classroom didn't have a sufficient amount of age appropriate toys for this class.
Staff were going to add age appropriate toys after the visit.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

There has been a recent change in directors. The center needs to have an approved OSS as the director is a director at another center. Lenae was given until 7/24/26 to get this completed.
The importance of complete and current staff and children files was discussed.

The center was very hot at the time of the visit. The air conditioner wasn't working properly. Lenae stated a company had been out two times during the past week to fix the air conditioner. Lenae contacted the company during the visit. This worker advised Lenae of HHS Rules regarding the need for centers to maintain safe and comfortable temperatures. Lenae said the air conditioner had been repaired.

Date: 07/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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**.