Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Crittenton Child Development Center

Provider No.: 52401

Address: 601 12th ST SW, Le Mars, IA, 51031

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Daniela Haas

On-Site Supervisor: Marissa Nelson

Phone Number: 7122554321

E-Mail: efuentes@crittentoncenter.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/17/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/30/2025

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	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 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	52	24	109	32	217
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at the Crittenton Child Development Center in LeMars, Iowa, on 03/18/2026. During the visit, I spoke with Assistant Director Marissa Nelson and Onsite Supervisor Hailie Rosales. Director Daniela Haas was not present. Ms. Haas oversees several Crittenton Child Development Center locations. She holds an associate's degree in early childhood education and has many years of experience in the childcare field. She has also completed extensive training hours in PBIS and through NAC.

This facility operates 12 classrooms and provides care for children ages 6 weeks through school age. Program hours are Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The program has 101 children enrolled, with 43 children present at the time of my visit. The center includes two infant rooms (serving children under 1 year of age), two 1-year-old rooms, two 2-year-old rooms, two 3-year-old rooms, one 4/5-year-old room, and one school-age room. The facility utilizes a secure check-in system for individuals entering the center.

During the visit, I observed all areas of the center, including classrooms, daily activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, the playground, and administrative documentation.

I observed the infant room, where staff were engaged with the children and positioned on the floor interacting with the babies. The room had a well-organized arrangement that supported safe and appropriate infant care practices. Safe sleep procedures were being followed. I observed a diaper-changing procedure during which Marissa provided corrective guidance to a staff member to ensure the diaper change was completed in accordance with required procedures. The center utilizes the Playground app to document each child's feeding and diapering schedule and to communicate this information with parents. There were a variety of toys and activities available in the room to support development and promote positive

interaction with the infants.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum, which is a research-based early childhood framework designed to support children's development through hands-on learning, exploration, and structured play. Classrooms had a well-organized arrangement that supported this curriculum, and each room included a variety of learning stations to engage children in age-appropriate play. The center also had numerous visual aids displayed throughout the classrooms, including children's artwork, which contributed to a warm and engaging learning environment. Children were engaged in an art activity using marker dot pens. This activity provided several developmental benefits for the children. Using marker dot pens supports fine motor development by strengthening hand muscles and improving hand-eye coordination. The activity also promotes cognitive development through color identification, pattern recognition, and following simple directions. In addition, engaging in art activities encourages creativity, self-expression, and early problem-solving skills.

Staff have been trained in PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). PBIS is an evidence-based approach that focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors, creating predictable routines, and supporting children's social-emotional development through proactive strategies. I did observe positive redirections by staff. Children responded appropriately which indicate good boundaries and structure.

There were also photographs displayed of children with their families, supporting a sense of connection between home and the center. The program additionally holds family nights, which help strengthen family engagement and foster relationships between staff, children, and their families.

The playground includes several safety features designed to support children's well-being during outdoor play. The rubber safety surface helps reduce the risk of injury from falls. The equipment appears to be securely anchored and in good repair, with appropriate spacing to maintain clear fall zones. The area is fully fenced to prevent children from leaving the play space and to ensure controlled access. Age-appropriate equipment is available, supporting safe use based on developmental levels. Additionally, the playground layout allows for clear visibility so staff can maintain effective supervision at all times.

The goal of this center is to work on IQ4K certification and increase enrollment.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff demonstrated strong collaboration throughout the program. Team members communicated with one another during transitions and shared responsibilities to ensure children's needs were met promptly. Staff assisted each other with supervision, classroom activities, and routines as needed. They also exchanged information about children's schedules and behaviors in a calm and coordinated manner, contributing to consistent care and a positive, supportive environment.

The center is clean and well-maintained, and staff follow a regular cleaning schedule to support hygiene and overall health and safety practices. Staff are responsible for completing daily sanitation tasks such as disinfecting high-touch surfaces, cleaning classroom materials, and maintaining cleanliness in diapering and restroom areas. They also ensure that toys, equipment, and eating surfaces are cleaned and sanitized according to required procedures. These routines help maintain a healthy environment for children and support compliance with licensing standards.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

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This worker has already been sent the Annual Fuel Burning inspection report.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted assessment: Behavior Management

I was able to speak with Marissa Nelson and discuss the following: I discussed with Brandi their oversight of behavior management relating to helping childcare staff: 1) Understanding Expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance:

Marissa reported that staff maintain positive working relationships and feel comfortable communicating when they need assistance. The center has an open-door communication policy, allowing staff to discuss concerns or issues at any time. Staff have been trained in PBIS, which emphasizes reinforcing positive behaviors through proactive strategies and consistent praise. Marissa is generally not included in the regular staffing rotation and moves between classrooms to assist with care, provide staff breaks, and offer guidance. She also supports staff by suggesting strategies such as adjusting classroom positioning to improve visibility and supervision of all children.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 03/18/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.