Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Cherokee Daycare **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29147

Street: 400 N Roosevelt **City:** Cherokee Iowa **Zip** 51012 **County:** Cherokee

Mailing Address: 400 N Roosevelt Ave, Cherokee, IA, 51012

Director's Name: Hailey Sutton **Phone Number:** 712-225-5728

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** CHdaycare@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-12-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-03-2024

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 11-15-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	38	32	30	25	125
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 08-13-2025

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I completed an unannounced visit at this center on 08/12/25 where I was able to meet with Director Hailey Sutton, Board member Steph Thill and hopeful director Raenique Grant. Ms. Grant is in the process of completing training to become the director by 10/1/25. Hailey has been working in childcare for a few years and has completed multiple training to increase her knowledge and understanding of childcare. The Board that is involved with this center is very active. There have been some transitions due to staff leaving and this board has played a very active role in this process and should be commended for their efforts.

Cherokee Daycare Center is located within a previous school building in Cherokee, Iowa. The center includes the following classrooms: infant, one-year-old, two-year-old, three-year-old, four/five-year-old, and school-age. A separate lunch area is also available within the building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., serving children from infancy through school age. At the time of the visit, the enrollment was 56 with 38 children present . This center has camaras throughout the facility.

All program areas were observed, including classroom activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, playground use, field trip and transportation procedures, and administrative operations.

The center uses a theme-based curriculum uses a central topic or concept—such as “Seasons,” “Community Helpers,” or “Under the Sea”—to connect and integrate learning across all areas of development. Each theme serves as a framework for selecting activities, books, projects, and play experiences that reinforce key skills in language, math, science, art, and social-emotional growth. The them this week is safety. They will be doing their fire drills/tornado drills this week as it relates to their theme of the week.

It most rooms there is good center arrangement allowing a good flow of activities. There is a doorknob that needs to be replaced .

It was observed that during diaper changes in the Blue Room, an additional staff member would help provide supervision and support in managing challenging behaviors. Adjustments to the room arrangement may also assist in creating a smoother transition during these times

While onsite, it was observed that a child who requires assistance entered the restroom without staff awareness. This indicates a need for increased supervision to ensure that children who require additional support are accompanied and monitored as appropriate.

Medication is stored in a locked box or out of children’s reach. Proper medication administration guidelines are followed. Monthly fire and tornado drills are conducted. Radon testing identified elevated levels in a few rooms. They have obtained radon testing kits and will be testing soon and sending the results to this worker. If they remain high, they will need to plan for a mitigation system. Annual furnace inspection completed. Carbon monoxide detectors are functional. The program

uses the school bus for transportation to and from school. Field trips are generally walking trips within the community.

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The center has three fenced-in playgrounds behind the building including an Infant/Toddler Playground with climbing equipment and rubber mulch surfacing. Younger Children's Playground with climbing equipment and rubber mulch. Preschool/School-Age Playground – Rubber tile surfacing with climbing equipment and slide. There is a nice grass area and plenty of shade. Playground observations indicated that children benefit when staff are actively interacting with them during outdoor play, rather than remaining seated.

The center has a small kitchen which has upgraded appliances. The refrigerator and kitchen area were clean. Staff do need to date any items out of packages and store them appropriately. Staff and children eat together providing an opportunity for children to learn manners.

The program uses the ProCare childcare app and holds monthly board and staff meetings.

The goal of this program is to continue to make improvements on their organization and staff retention.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Strengths of this center is the commitment of their staff and their board to strengthen their center's all around performance. They have actively been working with their CCRR consultant on their compliance with HHS expectations.

Center sends home to the parents a monthly newsletter.

Pictures of the children involved in various activities and field trips are displayed throughout the center.

The center has a solid staff who are working together well in establishing expectations and protocols.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.

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.

109.10(6): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene.

109.10(9): Smoking and use of tobacco products shall be prohibited in the center and every vehicle used to transport children. Prohibited in outdoor play area during hours of operation.

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center will email consultant by 10/1/25 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been completed. It is recommended that the Director continue to work with CCRR for support. It is also expected that the hopeful new director completes her necessary training by this date.

Please put all staff credentials and training in IPOWER including CPR/First Aid and Mandatory Reporting training.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

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

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.