Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Tamarack Discovery School

Provider No.: 51928

Address: 14 S Linn St, Iowa City, IA, 52240

County: Johnson

Director's Name: Katie Christiansen

On-Site Supervisor: Cassie Putney

Phone Number: 3198998835

E-Mail: katie@tamarackschool.org

HHS Visit Date: 12/17/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/13/2025

Comments: Does Comply.

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			12	48	60
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

This worker arrived at Tamarack Discovery School - 51928 for an annual visit. The center is located inside of Tamarack Discovery School. They use six classrooms, a kitchen, offices, and storage space. The center's fire inspection was completed on 3/13/2025. The center is open during the school year only. They are open Monday-Friday 7am to 5:30pm. The center provides care for preschool to school aged children.

The director is Katie Christiansen. The director has a Master’s Degree: School Administration. She started in 2020.

The on-site supervisor is Cassie Putney. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Art and Environmental Science. She started in 2023.

This worker observed all programming space in the center and outdoor area to ensure that the environment was safe, sanitary and hazard free. The center was safe, sanitary and hazard free.

The center staff provided careful supervision during the visit. The center was in ratio during the visit.

The center ensures that medication is stored and documented appropriately, handwashing procedures are followed, staff know how to use the cleaning, and sanitizing and disinfecting products.

The center provides morning snack and afternoon snacks. Parents provide their children's lunch. The center ensures that each child is served a full, nutritionally balanced meal/snack as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff provided careful supervision at the table during snacks and meals. Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage were followed. Menus were posted.

The center's curriculum is teacher created using the following curriculum: Play and Child Based + Nature Explorations.
The center provides transportation for field trips.
Field trip examples: Hickory Hill, Fossil Gorge, Natural History Museum, Public Library, etc.

All required postings were displayed on the date visit. Child files were in full compliance. Staff files were in full compliance.

The licensing notebook was in full compliance including floor plans, drills, first aid checklist, playground inspections, fuel burning inspection, radon testing, staff handbook/parent handbook and emergency preparedness.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

-The director shared the following as a strength, "Our preschool program emphasizes daily explorations, outdoor learning, and play-based experiences that support children's development in meaningful ways. Students learn in a multi-age setting that encourages peer learning, cooperation, and flexibility. Our program is supported by a team of experienced and diverse educators who bring a range of skills, perspectives, and expertise, allowing us to thoughtfully respond to individual needs and create a supportive, inclusive learning environment.
-The center is clean, nicely decorated and welcoming to those who enter.
-The center's website can be found at: https://www.tamarackschool.org/

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

The center was in full compliance on the date of my visit.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon the annual visit, it is recommended that this center remain in full licensing status. If citations were issued please ensure that they are corrected as soon as possible. It is important that the director and all staff review the updated Iowa Code 109 https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/providerportal/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=19 and Comm. 204: https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/6489/download?inline

This worker encourages all centers to work with Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant and their Child Care Nurse Consultant.

Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies play a vital role in supporting the quality of child care across Iowa by offering both on-site and virtual consultation services to licensed preschools, Child Care Centers, nonregistered Child Care Home providers and registered Child Development Home (CDH) providers. CCR&R agencies assist providers in complying with state regulations by offering expert consultation, training, and professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of care they provide. A key focus is supporting providers in achieving high performance within the Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) system https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/iq4k, which aims to improve child care quality across the state. In addition to supporting providers, CCR&R agencies also offer parent referral services and consumer education, helping families navigate the child care system and find quality care options.

Child Care Nurse Consultants (CCNCs) are registered nurses who have early childhood training and are experts in child health, child care, and child safety. CCNC services are available statewide and are part of the Healthy Child Care Iowa program. ECE providers may call or email questions to their local CCNC about health and safety policies, health records, health resources, and specific child health or safety concerns. To contact your local CCNC go to https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci and click on the "CCNC Local Services Map."

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 01/19/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

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**.