Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Stars Child Care Center

Provider No.: 51440

Address: 2250 W Ridgeway AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50702

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Yolanda Scott

On-Site Supervisor: Yolanda Scott

Phone Number: 3198836747

E-Mail: directorlsccc22@gmail.com
presidentlsccc@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/19/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2026 to 06/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/27/2026

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	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:00 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	26	22	12	10	70
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 05/19/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Stars Childcare Center in Waterloo. I met with Yolanda Scott, the director. She started in the position in May 2025. Ms. Scott has a BS in human services and psychology. She has several years of experience in childcare and was previously a childcare director. LaDonna Banks is in charge when Ms. Scott is not available. She started at the center in November 2025. Ibrahim Shehata is the childcare board president. Muhammad Shehata is the CEO. The program employs twelve staff members.

The center is in a free-standing building. They were given permission to open on 06/06/22. The program operates from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and serves infants through school age children. There are currently 24 children enrolled.

The program is in a secure building. There is a doorbell for visitors to ring to gain entrance. There are cameras in the classrooms, the hallway and at the entrance.

The program operates out of four rooms: infants (Constellation), toddlers/age one (Nebula), two and three-year-olds (Super Nova) and four, five and school age (Galaxy). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and numbers.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, playdough, math, science/discovery, magnets and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members.

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Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children. However, as I also mentioned in last year's report, there should be more activities available for the children on the shelves. Most of the shelves are fairly empty. This can lead to boredom and behavior problems.

Each classroom has a bathroom and there are additional bathrooms in the hallway. The toddler room, two and three-year-old room, and the four and five-year-old room bathrooms have one toilet and one sink. The infant room has two toilets and one sink. There is a changing table in each of the rooms. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted in all locations. There are also sinks inside each of the classrooms and procedures were posted. The handwashing procedures were posted.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant room and children transition to cots when they turn one year old. The older children nap on cots.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. A lesson plan was available in each room. The center has several resources in the staff room to assist with ideas for lesson plans.

The center uses the ProCare app to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two years old and all the rooms use ProCare to communicate with parents.

There is a phone in the office. Staff members use their personal phones in case of an emergency. Emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in each room. The rooms use walkie talkies to communicate with each other within the center. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

The program is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program serves breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. The staff members serve the children their food. Eveyette Hall is the cook. The center uses a three week rotation of menus. Menus were available for review. The rooms return dishes to the kitchen to be washed in the dishwasher.

I observed the kitchen to be clean and organized. There are three industrial sinks and a dishwasher available for dishes. There is one refrigerator in the kitchen and a refrigerator and an upright freezer in the pantry. There are thermometers present. Not all food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were crackers and graham crackers that were rolled up in the boxes. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a plastic, metal or glass container and be dated. This was corrected while I was present and will not be cited.

There is a refrigerator in each of the program rooms and thermometers were present.

In the infant room the center provides the formula. The parents provide baby food and cereal. Staff members wash bottles in the classroom using the three-step method. Some parents take the bottles home each day.

There was a lot of confusion regarding the sanitizer and disinfectant used by the center with all the staff members and Ms. Scott. Not all the bottles were labeled. If they were labeled, they only said "sanitizer" or "disinfectant". There was no information about which product was used or directions on how it should be used (dwell time, portable rinse, etc.). In the mechanical room I looked through the products used. The center appears to be using Pursue Disinfectant Cleaner. This can be used as a food surface sanitizer and it has a dwell time of one minute. It can also be used as a disinfectant and the dwell time is ten minutes. This is a long time for a dwell time. Staff members must be made aware that they need to leave the product on the table for ten minutes before they can make another diaper change. I would recommend using a product with shorter dwell time. There was also Amway Home Multi-Purpose Cleaner in the mechanical room. This can be used in place of soap and water but it cannot be used as a sanitizer or a disinfectant. Label all bottles with the product name and directions for use.

I recommend training staff members on how to sanitize and disinfect items properly with the product you are using. In the two and thee-year-old room the staff member reported not knowing how she was supposed to clean and sanitize or disinfect the food tables or the changing table. She is not using soap and water prior to the sanitizer or disinfectant. She did not clean and sanitize the food tables prior to lunch.

I discussed diaper changes with the staff members in the classrooms. In the Constellation room, the staff member was

leaving her gloves on through the entire process and she was not washing the children's hands. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed with the soiled diaper, prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. Children's hands must be washed after all diaper changes with soap and water. The staff member I spoke with was a floater. The lead staff member did know these things. In the Nebula room the staff member was also leaving her gloves on through the entire process. In the Super Nova room, the staff member is not using soap and water on the changing table prior to the bleach. This must always occur to properly disinfect the table. I would recommend going over how to properly complete diaper changes with all staff members at a staff meeting.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in May 2023 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. An annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector is located on the ceiling of each room as part of the safety system. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/27/26.

There is a playground on the west side of the center. There are two separate fenced areas. They worked closely with CCR&R and multiple experts to make sure the equipment was developmentally appropriate. Turf is used for surface cushioning on both sides. There is also a shade structure on each side. There are benches, chairs, and picnic tables available for the children to rest.

The smaller area has a tunnel, a slide, an activity center, a bridge, and riding toys. The larger area has an art center, a music center, sensory table, balance beam, stepping stones and riding toys.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children's files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Three files did not provide any emergency dentist contact information. There was one invalid immunization certificate because it was not signed or dated by medical personnel.

I reviewed two staff files. Fingerprint results could not be located for either staff member. The SING background check could not be located for one staff member. One staff member has been employed for over six months and she did not have a physical. She did have an appointment for her physical on the day following my visit.

Ms. Scott and I discussed what needs to be done if a background check is done and a potential staff member has a criminal record. All staff members who have a "hit" must go through the record check evaluation process and get approved by Des Moines prior to beginning their work in childcare. It does not matter what the criminal offense is, all "hits" must be evaluated.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency preparedness plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Scott has stepped into the director's role and done an incredible job. She seems to have good relationships with the employees. She still has some areas to work on but she is open to learning and taking recommendations.

Staff members were actively engaged with the children. In one room the children were working on a letter worksheet, in another room the staff member was singing and dancing with the children. In the infant room the staff member was nurturing and attentive. In the one year old room the staff members were feeding the children lunch. Child friendly music was playing in the rooms. They were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Staff members assisted with handwashing. They used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

I observed Ms. Scott going to rooms and counting children.

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Ms. Scott states their program is growing.

Ms. Scott states the staff members are becoming more open to new ideas. She is not receiving as much resistance.

Ms. Scott states staff members are decorating their rooms, doing art projects, and completing lesson plans.

The center has a private Facebook page.

The center has a detailed parent handbook that provides links to multiple community resources.

The center is in a secure building and there are cameras in the entrance, hallway and classrooms.

The center provides a unique experience and they children are given the opportunity to learn about Islamic Holidays.

Ibrahim Shehata, the childcare board president, and Muhammad Shehata, the CEO, are very involved in the childcare day to day activities and are readily available to assist Ms. Scott.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
Fingerprint results could not be located for either staff member. The SING background check could not be located for one staff member. Ms. Scott and I discussed what needs to be done if a background check is done and a potential staff member has a criminal record. All staff members who have a “hit” must go through the record check evaluation process and get approved by Des Moines prior to beginning their work in childcare. It does not matter what the criminal offense is, all “hits” must be evaluated.

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.
Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor’s and dentist’s name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Three files did not provide any emergency dentist contact information.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
There was a lot of confusion regarding the sanitizer and disinfectant used by the center with all the staff members and Ms. Scott. Not all the bottles were labeled. If they were labeled, they only said “sanitizer” or “disinfectant”. There was no information about which product was used or directions on how it should be used (dwell time, portable rinse, etc.). In the mechanical room I looked through the products used. The center appears to be using Pursue Disinfectant Cleaner. This can be used as a food surface sanitizer and it has a dwell time of one minute. It can also be used as a disinfectant and the dwell time is ten minutes. This is a long time for a dwell time. Staff members must be made aware that they need to leave the product on the table for ten minutes before they can make another diaper change. I would recommend using a product with shorter dwell time. There was also Amway Home Multi-Purpose Cleaner in the mechanical room. This can be used in place of soap and water but it cannot be used as a sanitizer or a disinfectant. Label all bottles with the product name and directions for use.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
In the Constellation room, the staff member was leaving her gloves on through the entire process and she was not washing the children’s hands. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed with the soiled diaper, prior to putting on the new

diaper and dressing the child. Children's hands must be washed after all diaper changes with soap and water. The staff member I spoke with was a floater. The lead staff member did know these things. In the Nebula room the staff member was also leaving her gloves on through the entire process. In the Super Nova room, the staff member is not using soap and water on the changing table prior to the bleach. This must always occur to properly disinfect the table.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to remove Necey Muhammad as the on-site supervisor. She is no longer with the program.

I recommend training staff members on how to sanitize and disinfect items properly with the product you are using. In the two and thee-year-old room the staff member reported not knowing how she was supposed to clean and sanitize or disinfect the food tables or the changing table. She is not using soap and water prior to the sanitizer or disinfectant. She did not clean and sanitize the food tables prior to lunch.

I would recommend going over how to properly complete diaper changes with all staff members at a staff meeting.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Scott her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Scott states they recently dealt with a child who had difficult behaviors. She was taught to clear a room out so other children cannot be harmed and give the child who is escalating space, so that is what they did. Ms. Scott stayed in the room to talk with the child. She tells staff members to talk to upset children in soft, calm voices. Ms. Scott states staff members call her for help. If she cannot move the child, she clears the room. If the child is okay to move, she takes the child to office.

Ms. Scott states she talks with staff members about tapping out, but she believes they need more training in this area. I discussed PBIS training and having CCR&R come to classrooms and offering observation and ideas. Ms. Scott states she monitors the situation by moving in and out of rooms frequently and doing her own observation in the rooms.

Date: 05/28/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.