Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Warrior Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 51072

Address: 80 2nd ST, Calamus, IA, 52729

County: Clinton

Director's Name: Jessica Esbaum

On-Site Supervisor: none

Phone Number: 5632462553

E-Mail: jesbaum@cal-wheat.net

HHS Visit Date: 04/08/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/28/2025

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	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 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	8	18	67	20	113
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 4/8/26. The center director is Jessica Esbaum. Jessica was present and accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the majority of the visit. Jessica is also the lead teacher for the school's statewide voluntary preschool program. Jessica is qualified as the licensed prek teacher for the program, a bachelor's degree in elementary education with endorsements in early childhood education/early childhood special education/reading/social studies and 19 years of total experience in early childhood/child care. The center is owned and operated by the Calamus Wheatland Elementary School. The licensed center occupies space in the elementary school building, most of which is new space that has been added on to the school specifically for the preschool and child care center. Before and after school/preschool child care is offered to children who attend this school on school days. On non school days the program would be open to other children as well. The center director states the center uses the Creative Curriculum. School age is center created and is theme based following the calendar. The center reports enrollment of 67 children at the time of the visit.

The center includes the following licensed space in the new wing of the building: Twos room (18 months through three year old), threes room (three/four year old, may have two year old children if there are no four year old children present), prekl room (statewide voluntary prek program and before and after preschool/school child care for four year old through school age children), and infant room (age six weeks through 18 months). Licensed child care rooms in the main school building include: Room 301 (wraparound four/five year old child care for prek children, school day only) and room 303 (four year and older child care). All program rooms are spacious, colorful, and bright with windows. Program materials are highly organized and are accessible. Rooms 301 and 303 include an adjacent restroom area with a toilet and sink as well as a hand washing sink within the program room. These children also have access to nearby hallway restroom areas. The twos, threes, and preschool rooms include adjacent restroom areas with one toilet. These rooms have two hand washing sinks

within the program room (at least one sink is just outside of the restroom area). The twos room includes a diaper station within the program room near the hand washing sink. The infant room includes a diaper station and hand washing sink within the program room. The room also includes a food/bottle sink. The center includes a room they call the "gym" that is used by multiple groups at various times of the day for indoor large motor activities. This room is not included in the center's license capacity at this time but can have a maximum of 47 children at any given time. The "gym" includes two adjacent restroom areas with one toilet and one sink in each. There are hallway restroom areas available nearby that the program can use as well. The center may also use the school gymnasium on occasion. All program space was observed.

The center does not participate in the CACFP. The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. Meals and snacks are provided by the school cafeteria and brought to the center by cafeteria staff. The school cafeteria is licensed by IDPH. School age children are released from child care prior to breakfast on school days.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The new wing of the building was designed specifically for the child care center. The program rooms provide ample space and are well arranged and well supplied. Materials continue to be accessible to the children, are organized, and are well maintained. The center continues to be well managed, and the staff appear to work well together. The staff were once again observed to be highly engaged in activities with the children. Children's projects and crafts are posted throughout the center. The center director reports that the school and the families who utilize the center are very supportive to the program. Staff and child files and other required licensing documentation continue to be highly organized.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.
1. _3_ child files reviewed did not have complete doctor/dentist information as required.

109.10(1): Medications:
1. Medication authorization missing the specific beginning and ending date for the period of authorization.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with (director) their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.
The center director provided the following responses:
1. We go over our center's discipline policy at the time of new employee orientation, as well as classroom expectations. New learning is encouraged and shared in staff meetings, and employees are encouraged to take at least one training each year in the areas of classroom management, and/or managing behaviors.
2. We talk about frustration signs in staff meetings. Staff are made aware that if they are overwhelmed to contact the director or assistant director to step in if they need a break/time out. We check in with employees often if they express being overly frustrated or stressed.
3. We monitor skills through classroom observations, and team meetings with lead teachers. Employees are addressed individually if needed.

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule.

1. Improve cot spacing in areas of the two year old room.

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2. Ensure standing diaper changes are completed in a sanitary fashion. This was reviewed with the center director.
3. Ensure communicable diseases are posted where visible to the entire center.

The center will continue with a full license. Please correct the item(s) cited and address the concerns noted above in this section of the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 05/04/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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**.