Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Learning Grove Academy

Provider No.: 51478

Address: 1780 Lininger LN, North Liberty, IA, 52317

County: Johnson

Director's Name: Mikaela Brandenburg

On-Site Supervisor: Heather Dake and Maggee Mitchell

Phone Number: 3196268555

E-Mail: mbrandenburg@learninggroveacademy.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/23/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/16/2025

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	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	62	32	84	90	268
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

This worker arrived at THE LEARNING GROVE ACADEMY - 51478 on 6/23/2026 for their annual visit. The center is located inside of a commercial building. They have 12 classrooms, one large motor room, one STEM room, staff break room, and kitchen. The center's fire inspection was completed on 12/26/25. The center is open year around Monday-Friday from 6am-6pm. The center provides care for infants-school aged children. The center's current enrollment is 152.

The director is Mikaela Brandenburg. The director has a bachelor's degree in Asian Languages and Literature and International Relations (Regional Politics and Relationships). She has been in the childcare field since 2015.

The onsite supervisors are Heather Dake and Maggee Mitchell. Heather has her CDA and is currently in school for an associate's degree. She started in 2023. Maggee has her CDA. She started March 2006.

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 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, sanitizing and disinfecting products and diaper changing procedures were followed. Infant safe sleep procedures were followed.

The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. 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 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: Creative Curriculum and Learning Beyond Paper. The center provides transportation for field trips and school. Field trip examples include Maquoketa Caves, Innovation Center, Raptor Center, bowling, library and golf.

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 center utilizes ProCare to communicate with parents.
-The center has developed working relationships with Child Care Resource and Referral, Healthy Child Care Iowa and Iowa's Area Education Agency.
-The director has done an excellent job on maintaining employees:
2022 Margaret Dohrer, Heidi Johnson, Margaret Dohrer,
2023 Mikaela Brandenburg, Sarah Collins, Heather Collins

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that the facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Violated.

-The following items must be stored inaccessible to the children: choking hazards, plastic bags, diaper sleeves, duct tape and tablet chargers.
-The outdoor play area is in need of repairs. This includes fences, gates, and half doors. Additional fall surfacing is required.
-Several changing tables need replaced.

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 are 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 Iowa Administrative Code and Comm. 204: Comm. 204, Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures

This worker encourages all centers to work with Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Child Care Resource & Referral - Iowa CCR&R and their Child Care Nurse Consultant Healthy Child Care Iowa | Health & Human Services. Care Resource & Referral Consultants assists centers through training/professional development, licensing/regulatory support, developing policies/procedures and achieving best practice standards (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®). Child Care Nurse Consultants assists centers through on-site consultation, training, technical assistance, information and referrals and care planning for children with special health needs.

Date: 07/27/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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**.