Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Saber Cubs Care

Provider No.: 52946

Address: 1140 15th St, DeWitt, IA, 52742

County: Clinton

Director's Name: Sarah Penniston

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5636594711

E-Mail: sarah.penniston@cd-csd.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/21/2025

Licensing Period: 08/25/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/14/2023

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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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			88	88	176
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced first licensing visit was completed at this new center on 11/21/25. The center was first visited on 8/15/25 and given permission to open without a license effective 8/25/25. Present for the licensing visit was the approved center director, Sarah Penniston, and other staff. Sarah is qualified with experience as a registered home provider for many years, at this school for the past two years as an administrative assistant, and a bachelor's degree in a non child related field of study. Sarah accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the visit. This center is not for profit and is owned and operated by the Ekstrand Elementary School. The center serves children four years of age through school age and plans to operate year round. The school does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. On school days child care for preschool age children is offered Monday through Thursday before school for the morning preschool session and after school for the afternoon preschool session. Children who attend the all day preschool may have child care before and after school and all day on Fridays (there is no preschool on Fridays).

The center includes the following licensed rooms: Saber Cubs Care (SCC) room (separate building near the main school building, primary child care space), cafeteria (used for Friday lunch and for child care if/when capacity exceeds SCC room), and room C125 (used as last resort for child care if needed). The center uses the school gym as the meeting place for child care after school and for indoor large motor activities. It is not included in the license capacity for the center. There are hallway restroom areas nearby to the cafeteria, gym, and room C125 that are used by the program. The SCC room includes two adjacent single restroom areas. Room C125 also includes a hand washing sink within the program room. All program space was observed. The center director states the center is still working on developing a specific curriculum but currently focuses on basic themes and seasonal activities. The SCC room offers an adequate supply of materials to meet program needs. Room C125 is very well supplied as it is the school's preschool room. The center director states materials are brought to the cafeteria and/or gym when those spaces are used.

The center does not participate in the CACFP. The school kitchen is licensed by the IDPH, and that license is current. On school day Fridays, the center provides the breakfast and snacks and the school provides lunch. Monday through Thursday school days the center provides the snacks. On non school days the center provides the meals and snacks.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The school is highly supportive of the child care program. Children's crafts and projects were posted in the SCC room. Program space is large and bright with windows. The center director reports having worked with their CCRR consultant on a monthly basis to prepare to open the center. The required licensing documentation and child and staff files were found to be organized.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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109.10(1)
1. Medication present without parent authorization form completed.

109.10(13)b
1. Fire and tornado drills not documented for 9/2025.

109.11(4)b
1. Playground inspections not documented for 9/2025 and 10/2025.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

1. Ensure schedules are posted that reflect the program activities for each portion of the program as discussed with the center director (before school, after school, Friday care, all day care, etc.).
2. Ensure emergency plan postings include the center name/address/phone number and phone numbers for police/fire/poison control and these postings are needed at the two of the doors in room C125.
3. Ensure all center phones have the required phone posting including the center name/address/phone number and phone numbers for police/fire/poison control.
4. Ensure cots are sanitized at least weekly.
5. Ensure current and complete menus are posted for all meals and snacks.
6. Ensure meals and snacks meet CACFP requirements for credible items served.

A full license is issued. Please address the violations and special notes/recommendations noted in 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: 12/30/2025

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**.