Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Children's Jungle

Provider No.: 50568

Address: 828 W Summit ST, Winterset, IA, 50273

County: Madison

Director's Name: Jennifer Shilhanek

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5154625290

E-Mail: thejungle0520@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/03/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/25/2025

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years per licensing rules and regulations.

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	16	30	24	30	100
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 6/3/26. The owner/director was present throughout the inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Children's Jungle is a center located in Winterset, IA that was given permission to open on 5/13/19. The center serves children six weeks in age to 12 years in age using the Creative Learning Curriculum There are total of six classrooms. The center is open year-round, Monday - Friday, from 6:00am - 6:00pm. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 54 children.

Jennifer Shilhanek is the owner and the director of this center. Jennifer has an AA degree and has past experience working in child care, including running her own registered in-home daycare in the past. The center does not currently have an on-site supervisor, but is actively looking for a new one.

NUTRITION: The center serves breakfast, lunch, and a PM snack to children. Children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs. Family style dining is practiced. The center employs a full-time cook. There is a kitchen where all meals are prepared. All food storage was sufficient. The food menu met CACFP guidelines.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has two vans that they transport children in for field trips and school. The vans are serviced regularly. Children three years of age and older are eligible to go on field trips. For all transportation

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needs, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along. The center also has a bus, but the owner needs to first get her CDL.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playground areas based on ages of children. The playground wraps around three corners of the building. For the younger children's playground, the rubber matting is starting to buckle and warp creating potential tripping hazards. The center is currently exploring other surfacing alternatives. There are riding toys (some need new handles) and climbing structures. More rubber mulch is needed at the bottom of slides. There are also grassy areas and a sidewalk area for children to play and ride bikes. The building provides some shade currently. Monthly playground checks are being conducted.

During the inspection, many children were napping as the inspection took place in the early afternoon. Crib and cot spacing was sufficient. An infant was observed being held by a staff member while being bottle fed. Staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate for monthly fire and tornado drills. Toys and other equipment in classrooms are being cleaned and sanitized daily. Diapering tables are disinfected after each use.

For more difficult child behaviors, the owner/director stated she does a lot of monitoring of classrooms, being present in classrooms, and stressing the importance of good communication between staff, staff with children, as well as staff with parents. Present in classrooms are also calming activities for children. Staff are also taught to be aware of their own personal limits and to know when to ask for small breaks if needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center was very clean and had good lighting throughout.

All staff were wearing company shirts.

The center uses an electronic application for daily sheets and as an intranet communication system throughout the center. Communication is stressed with parents and staff.

Security cameras are in place.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The center has a staff lounge for staff to use on their breaks.

The center utilizes CCR&R and their nurse consultant on a regular basis.

Parent teacher conferences are offered once or twice a year.

The owner/director has her NAC.

The center has good community partnerships which includes other child care programs in the area.

The center has a full-time cook. The center also participates in the food program (CACFP).

Management stated they worked well together and there is a good mix of tenured and newer staff who also work well together.

Staff are eligible for health-type benefits based on their hours of work.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water.

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Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
1. Some tricycles need new handle bars.
2. More rubber mulch is needed at the bottom of slides in the older children's playground. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.
3.The rubber tiles in the younger children's playground is starting to buckle and warp.

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.
All infant bottles should be labeled with the children's names on them.

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

The owner/director is currently exploring ideas for new/different playground surfacing.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed 7/12/21 - 7/14/21. Radon levels were below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years. RADON TESTING IN ALL CLASSROOMS IS DUE AGAIN IN 7/2026.

The annual heating/cooling inspection on file was from 6/2/25. THIS IS SCHEDULED AGAIN FOR MID JUNE 2026.

I - Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. The center is working on IQ4K. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and annual professional development training is being uploaded.

It is again recommended that outdoor playground mats be purchased and placed at the bottom of slides to help preserve surfacing.

It is recommended that other equipment not be stored in front of the center's emergency preparedness kit.

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Date: 06/04/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.