Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Renee Dittmar

Provider Name: Renee Dittmar

Provider No.: 24507

Address: 3007 Outlook DR SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

E-Mail:

County: Linn

Phone Number: 3197753333

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 2/27/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [X] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0<24 mos)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

1. Basic Overview

Renee shared that she became a Registered childcare provider in 1999. She has not participated in the prior Quality rating system and does not participate in the current IQ4K quality rating system. Renee does participate in the Food Program. Renee shared that she is willing to care for children ages infant through the age of 5. She noted that once children begin Kindergarten she does not care for school-aged children. Renee does have 3 dogs in the home. She did not that her little dog might interact with the children at times but noted in it limited. She shared that the two big dogs that belong to her son do not interact with the childcare children. Renee does have an above ground pool in her back yard. It is fully fenced and meets the standards. Renee shared that the childcare children do not use the pool. She did report that she might use a sprinkler for the children. Renee does have a good size yard for outdoor play. Renee only utilizes the lower level of her home for childcare, and the families enter and exit from a door into that space. Renee does not have an approved substitute or assistant. Renee Karla shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool but will use a sprinkler or other water play.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Renee had 7 children in care on this date. She did have 3 children under the age of 12 months. That is the limit she is allowed for under the age of 12 months. Renee presented as quite busy with the children she had in care, and she did identify that having the 3 infants can be challenging with the addition of the more active toddlers and preschoolers. This worker did observe her to appropriately interact with the children and appropriately re-direct them when needed. She did redirect the children frequently while this worker was present. This worker observed some free play, but Renee also had the children sit at the table and color for a period of time as well.

Renee had detailed policies that include more than the 2 minimum required policies. Renee did have a folder for each child, and all her documentation was organized into a file box. That did make it easy for this worker to review her documentation while she continued to supervise and interact with the children.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.8(1)n. All dogs and cats have annual examinations. Records of the exams are on file and must verify that routine immunizations are current and animal is free of endo and ecto parasites.
Form 470-5153, Pet Health Examination Veterinary Health Certificate, is on file.
Renee did have the appropriate annual pet exam for her dog. However, her son also has 2 dogs and those 2 did not have the appropriate pet exams.
*Renee needs to obtain an annual pet exam for both of her son's dogs and these needs to be documented on the approved HHS pet form.
Due to the fact this was also an area where she was out of compliance last year and had not taken steps to come into compliance, Renee will need to send pictorial verification of those pet exams to this worker when completed.

110.8 (1) r : Certificate of registration is displayed in a conspicuous place.
Renee did have a Certificate displayed but it was an old one that had expired.
*Renee did locate her current certificate of Registration while this worker was present and displayed it accordingly.

110.8(4)a. Fire and tornado drills are practiced monthly and documentation kept on file for the current year and previous year.
Renee did have documentation for this year but could not locate her documentation from the previous year.
*Renee needs to ensure that she keeps documentation of her monthly fire and tornado drills for the previous year for compliance verification.

110.8 (4) b : Procedures are in place for:
Evacuation to safely leave the facility,
Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation,Shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where the child is when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue,
Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation,
Communication and reunification with families,
Continuity of operations, and
Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs.
Renee did have an Emergency Preparedness Plan but shared that she was in the process of updating it. Her identified re-location site was no longer accurate.
*Renee needs to make the appropriate updates/changes to her EPP. Renee needs to send pictorial verification of that updated plan to this HHS worker.

110.1593)c. If the second story or basement is used for childcare, other than the use of a restroom, there is, in addition to one inside stairway, at least one direct exit to the outside.
Renee did have a secondary exit from the lower level of her home, but her exit was blocked by several items, and she needs to have a clear path to the exit.
*Renee needs to move items to ensure her secondary exit is easily accessible and not blocked. Renee needs to send pictorial verification to this worker once that path is cleared.

A re-check is not needed at this time. The above corrections should be made within 3 weeks (by 3/20/26) and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check.

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Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted above to christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov or text to 319-429-0749.

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Renee shared that she does not transport the childcare children.
We did discuss safe sleep policies.
We did discuss the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a Category 1 provider.

As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. As noted above, Renee does need to make a few updates to her current EPP. Renee will need to send pictorial verification of those updates to this worker.
She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

Recommendations:
Renee did have a statement already in her policies that noted that parents are able submit an exemption for immunizations (either religious or medical) in lieu of the immunization record for each child. This is a new policy effective 7/1/25 so we did discuss this. We did discuss that although the state allows those exemptions, she as a provider does not have to accept those. We did discuss that if she chooses to not accept those, then that needs to be clear to the parents as well.

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: Renee sent pictorial verification of her updated Emergency Preparedness plan, she moved the items blocking her second exit and she sent the updated pet exams on 3/20/26. These were the items that she needed to send pictorial verification of.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 3/24/2026

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 3/2/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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 I encourage you to work with your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs. Supervisor Rachel Bonefas can be reached at 563-362-8225. If you call that number, she can advise you as to who is your identified support worker.