Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Goddard School of Waukee

Provider No.: 47986

Address: 80 NE Carefree LN, Waukee, IA, 50263

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Holly Showalter and Liz Smith

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5152976555

E-Mail: dwaukeeia2@goddardschools.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/20/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/01/2025

Comments: Waukee Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing 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	7:15 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:15 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:15 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:15 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:15 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	24	12	92		128
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 2/20/26. Director, Holly Showalter, was present throughout this visit. The owner/director, Liz Smith, was present for a portion of this visit.

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 Goddard School of Waukee is a center in Waukee, IA that was given permission to open on 11/8/16. The center opened for business on 11/14/16. The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly six years in age using the Wonders of Learning Curriculum which is Goddard based. The center is open year-round. There are a total of nine classrooms. Total enrollment at the time of the inspection was 132 children.

The owner and head director of the center is Liz Smith. Liz has a BA degree in Education. Liz has past experience working in child care and the school setting. The director of the center as of 1/2021 is Holly Showalter. Holly has a BA degree in Education and has past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them, napping ,or getting ready to nap. Child and staff hand washing was observed. Toys, tables, cots, cribs, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily. Diaper changing tables are being disinfected after each use. A proper diaper change was observed. Staff gave specific answers as to where classrooms evacuate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

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NUTRITION: The center serves children an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack. Children eat at the child-size tables and chairs in their classroom. Lunches are delivered by Pizza Ranch. The center has a vendor where they get their AM snack and PM snack items. The center employs a cook and their is also a kitchen within the center. All food storage was sufficient. All meal items observed met CACFP requirements.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does go on field trips, but they do bring different businesses into the center for presentations to the children.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playgrounds based on ages of children. There is also a shaded patio area. Playground Safety Solutions come out annually to conduct a full playground inspection. No issues were noted with the playground at this year's inspection, but due to the large amount of snow on the ground from the previous night's snowstorm, the playground was only partially observed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Enrollment remains steady.

The center is very well lit and was clean.

There is a secure entrance into the building. There is also a security outside camera system in place.

The center uses an electronic system (Kaymbu) for checking staff/children into and out of the center. Daily sheets and other forms are also electronic

Lead teachers all have degrees (preschool and up).

Monthly staff meetings are held.

Parent-teacher conferences are held two times a year. The center also has a website, Instagram, and Facebook page to communicate with parents.

A certified playground inspection company does a full inspection on the center playground areas yearly.

Staff receive recognition for good work ("shout outs" and "teacher of the month"). Staff are eligible for benefits and wages are competitive. Staff receive more training than required and management provides staff with modeling and coaching to achieve best practice. There is a good core staff retention. Staff photos are posted.

In 2/2021, the center became NAEYC accredited.

Several staff are involved in the WAGES and TEACH programs.

The center is involved in a Spanish teaching program, yoga, chess, S.T.E.M., tennis, choir, violin, dance, music, and other programs for children to participate.

The director is organized.

The center has an outdoor garden.

Staff stated they enjoy their jobs and working with each other and the families/children they serve.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
The January 2026 tornado drill was not documented.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
The January 2026 playground inspection was not documented.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last conducted 3/21/25 - 3/27/25. All classrooms came back with radon levels 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.

The annual furnace inspection was completed on 10/15/25.

I-Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. It appears most staff have I-Power profiles and training is being uploaded (need to manually update Mandatory Reporter and First-Aid/CPR). The center is still working on IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The center has purchased velvet ties to tie up computer cords together.

Because the center had plenty of staff on the day of the inspection, one staff member left work early during the inspection so that she could get an updated physical.

It was noted that one toilet needed to be repaired, but this just happened per the director and the center already had a work order in to fix and/or replace the toilet prior to the inspection.

It was noted that one child's immunization records need to be transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form.

It is recommended that the center use the monthly playground inspection form that is all on one sheet of paper rather than using one sheet of paper for each month. This recommended form is what is preferred/required.

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Date: 02/20/2026

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**.