Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Calico Kids Preschool

Provider No.: 30197

Address: 1407 W 18th St, Sioux City, IA, 51103

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Amber Porter

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122557441

E-Mail: calicokidspreschool@hotmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/27/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2026 to 02/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/31/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:45 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:45 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:45 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:45 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday			
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit to Calico Kids Preschool on January 27, 2025. During the visit, I spoke with Melissa Musselman, the center director. Melissa has extensive experience working with preschool-aged children and holds an Elementary Education degree. She also has prior teaching experience at a dual-language elementary school.

Calico Kids Preschool operates in a single classroom located on the lower level of Mayflower Congregational Church in Sioux City, which owns the preschool. The program runs Monday through Thursday and offers two sessions for children ages 3 and 4: 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are currently 33 students enrolled in the program, with 12 children present during my visit.

All program areas were observed as part of the administrative review.

Calico Kids Preschool embraces the Creative Curriculum, a research-based approach that promotes whole-child development through play-based, hands-on learning experiences. This curriculum allows teachers to intentionally plan activities that foster curiosity, creativity, and individualized growth. To complement this, the program utilizes GOLD® assessments, an observation-driven tool that helps educators monitor developmental progress and tailor instruction to each child's needs. These assessments also provide meaningful insights for families, encouraging collaboration and supporting children's success. Together, these tools create a nurturing and informed learning environment where every child can thrive.

A daily schedule of activities was posted in the classroom, providing structure and consistency for the children. The room was bright and engaging, with colors, shapes, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet displayed throughout.

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The classroom offered a variety of learning centers designed to encourage exploration and skill development, including areas for puzzles, blocks, books, math, writing, art, dramatic play, sensory activities, and computer use. During my visit, children were observed participating in free play—where they explored these centers—along with gym time and story reading. Children are assigned classroom jobs such as snack helper, line leader, weather reporter, mail carrier, and calendar helper, promoting responsibility and a sense of community.
Lesson plans were appropriate for the developmental needs of the children. There was a sufficient supply of toys, art materials, books, blocks, and other equipment to support learning and play.

Health and safety practices are well established. Fire and tornado drills are conducted monthly, and the center is equipped with a working carbon monoxide detector. A radon test has been completed and is within the normal range, and the furnace has been inspected. All program areas were observed to be clean, well-maintained, and organized.
The outdoor play area is fenced and includes toys for sandbox play, basketball hoops, balance beams, and bikes. Shade is available, and the playground surface is grass, as there are no climbing structures. In addition, the center has access to a large gym outside the preschool classroom, which is used as an indoor play space.
The center does not transport children or take field trips. However, a year-end program is planned, and parents will transport children to that event.

Throughout my visit, staff were actively engaged with the children—participating in activities, offering guidance, and providing gentle redirection when needed. The overall atmosphere in the classroom was positive, supportive, and nurturing.

This center is certified at level 3 of the IQ4K. Their goal is to become certified at a level 4, and they are currently working on achieving this.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

One of the greatest strengths of this program is the dedication and commitment of its staff. Their active engagement, caring interactions, and consistent support create a positive and nurturing environment where children can thrive.

They have parent teacher conference twice a year.

The center encourages learning through play, creating opportunities for children to explore, discover, and develop new skills in an engaging way. During my visit, the children were enthusiastic about the activities and took pride in their work, eagerly sharing their accomplishments.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Several child files need information noted for doctor and dentist with contact information.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The Director will email consultant by 03-05-26 confirming that the items that fall below standard have been corrected. It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for support.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 01/27/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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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**.