Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Growing Patch Wrap Around Care

Provider No.: 52585

Address: 101 Palo RD, Center Point, IA, 52213

County: Linn

Director's Name: Jennifer Liedtke

On-Site Supervisor: Stephanie Candler

Phone Number: 3199817905

E-Mail: growingpatch2017@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/09/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/30/2024

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

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			30	9	39
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Growing Patch learning programs have been in operation since 2017 and currently operate multiple licensed childcare programs in Linn County. Specifically, this annual inspection visit and report pertains to Growing Patch Wrap Around Care (GPWAC). GPWAC is located inside Center Point Elementary School which is part of the Center Point Community School District. GPWAC is a profit program offering licensed childcare M-F 6:30am-5:30pm to preschool-age children outside of the school's DOE preschool program. The program also has the option of providing school-age childcare to children outside of school hours as needed. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 29 on 3/9/2026.

Multi-site original founding owner and director is Jennifer Liedtke. Ms. Liedtke has a BS degree in secondary education, has a current State of Iowa teaching license, has a plethora of experience working with children and continues to participate in professional development. On-site supervisor Stephanie Candler has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 3/9/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in Room #406 and Room #409. The program has some access to the school gymnasium and outdoor school playground. There are sufficient restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. Meals are prepared on-site in the school kitchen which is inspected by the health department. GPWAC has areas for storage of the program's snack food items. There is also an on-site outdoor play space for preschoolers. On 3/9/2026, activities offered were many including quiet rest as well as center play experiences (e.g. imaginative play, construction building, open crafting with markers and colored pencils). Curriculum on the day of the monitoring visit was observed to allow for a variety of play experiences that piqued child interest as well as encouraged social emotional growth, innovation and child choice. Routine transitions (e.g. nap time rituals, snack time procedures, restroom break) went well. On 3/9/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children providing

encouragement and positive redirection when needed. On the day of this monitoring visit, children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of the Growing Patch learning programs is "…to provide a safe, developmentally appropriate environment for infants, toddlers, preschool and school-aged children….focus is to provide a stimulating early care and educational experience which promotes each child's social/emotional, physical, and cognitive development…our goal is to support each child's desire to be lifelong learners."

Growing Patch learning programs have a private social media page for employees and families. In early 2025, GPWRA was recognized for their partnership with a local school district to provide full day-care: https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/2025-02-07/gov-reynolds-introduces-bill-promote-preschool-child-care-partnerships-provide-full-day-care.

Multi-site owner Ms. Liedtke is a seasoned local entrepreneur invested in the community. As of 3/9/2026, the management team of the Growing Patch learning locations (e.g. Ms. Liedtke, Ms. Candler) continues efforts to create and maintain systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and secured in a confidential manner. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. The Growing Patch locations continue to collaborate with one another on the sharing of materials, resources, curriculum, ideas/planning, and professional growth training. The Growing Patch locations also report utilizing the support of our local CCNC and CCR&R as needed. Ms. Liedtke expressed much gratitude towards having a reliable team of staff who are willing to assist in various capacities as needed. Staff throughout the program rooms reported being with the program for 9 years, 10 months and 6 months. Growing Patch locations have used the Teach and Wages programs to encourage staff professional goals.

On the day of this monitoring visit, GPWAC was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Curriculum continues to include a combination of learning strategies including Learning Beyond Paper which aligns well with Iowa's ELS. Curriculum additionally incorporates guest speaker events, enrichment activities, themed days, and holiday/seasonal parties. Ms. Liedtke discussed the positive family feedback the program continues to receive.

As of 3/9/2026, GPWAC continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily child contact, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff and management were able to verbalize how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. On 3/9/2026, management and staff discussed how they have continued supports from the school district including from school administrative, school food service personnel, the school board and the school custodians as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

Each Growing Patch location, including GPWAC, has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None noted.

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Child file (BM) reviewed indicated a special health need which may at times require administration of rescue medication. Ensure when the child is in attendance, the medication is also present.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

A doorbell-camera entry system is strongly recommended as the program is a distance from the childcare's assigned main entry and exit door.

Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If areas of the outdoor playground become unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 05/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.