Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Stepping Stones Learning Center LLC

Provider No.: 20495

Address: 2205 2nd AVE, Muscatine, IA, 52761

County: Muscatine

Director's Name: Shawna Martin

On-Site Supervisor: Assistant Director: Jacob Martin

Phone Number: 5632641871

E-Mail: daycare97@machlink.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/24/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/11/2024

Comments: Does Comply.

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 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 5:30 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	22	14	49	8	93
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

This worker arrived at STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER LLC for an annual visit on 8/24/2026. The center is located inside of a commercial building. The center uses five classrooms, an office, breakroom, storage space and a kitchen. The center's fire inspection was completed on 12/11/2024. The center is open year around Monday-Friday from 6am-5:30pm. The center provides care for infants-five-year-old children. The center's current enrollment is 53 children.

The center directors are Shawna Martin and Jacob Marin. Shawna opened the center in 2007. Shawna has her Early Childhood Education (ECE) Diploma. Jacob completed the National Administrator Credential and has a Early Childhood Education (ECE) Diploma. Jacob started at the center in 2007.

This worker observed all programming space in the center and outdoor area to ensure that the environment was safe, sanitary and hazard free. The center was in ratio during the visit.

The center ensures that medication is stored and documented appropriately, handwashing procedures are followed, staff know how to use the cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting products and diaper changing procedures were followed. Safe sleep practices were observed.

The center provides breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. The center ensures that each child is served a full, nutritionally balanced meal/snack as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff provided careful supervision at the table during snacks and meals. Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage were followed. Menus were posted.

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The center's curriculum is teacher created using Creative Curriculum. The center does not offer field trips or transportation.

All required postings were displayed on the date visit. Child files were in full compliance. Staff files were in full compliance.

The licensing notebook was in full compliance including floor plans, drills, first aid checklist, playground inspections, fuel burning inspection, radon testing, staff handbook/parent handbook and emergency preparedness.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

-The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
-The center accepts Child Care Assistance.
-Staff and child files were in full compliance.
-The center has secured entrances and video cameras in every classroom.
-Several staff are ServSafe Certified.
-The center uses ProCare for open parent communication.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(14)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-A staff member was observed covering the child's entire body (including the head) on camera. This worker asked the director about this. She shared that this staff has been redirected before not to do this. This worker explained to the staff member why she could not cover the children's head. You are unable to see the child to provide careful supervision.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
-Sunscreens were accessible to the children. This must be stored inaccessible at all times.
-The outdoor play area could benefit from some surfacing being evened out.
-The center needs to do some basic repair to the restrooms.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.
-Some staff have unrealistic expectations for the children. The director is asked to post this information in the classroom for each age of the children in the room: https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/resources/index.html

109.5. Parents must be afforded unlimited access to their children and to the provider caring for their children during the center's hours of operation or whenever their children are in the care of a provider unless parental contact if prohibited by court order. The provider will inform all parties of this policy in writing at the time the child's admitted to the center.
-The center is encouraged to update/revise. Parents must be afforded unlimited access to their children and the provider caring for their children.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center shared that they would like to remodel bathroom areas.

Based upon the annual visit, it is recommended that this center remain in full licensing status. If citations are issued, please ensure that they are corrected as soon as possible. It is important that the director and all staff review the updated Iowa Code 109 Iowa Administrative Code and Comm. 204: Comm. 204, Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures

This worker encourages all centers to work with Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Child Care Resource &

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Referral - Iowa CCR&R and their Child Care Nurse Consultant Healthy Child Care Iowa | Health & Human Services. Care Resource & Referral Consultants assists centers through training/professional development, licensing/regulatory support, developing policies/procedures and achieving best practice standards (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®). Child Care Nurse Consultants assists centers through on-site consultation, training, technical assistance, information and referrals and care planning for children with special health needs.

Date: 10/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

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**.