06/04/2024

Nita Daniels
153 Dawson ST
Waterloo, IA 50703

Dear Child Care Provider:

This letter is in regards to the compliance visit at your Registered Child Development Home B conducted on 06/04/2024. Iowa Code Chapter 237A and 441 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110, describes specific requirements that must be met by a Registered Child Development Home. You are not a participant in the voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System. The following areas were out of compliance at the time of the visit:

441 IAC 110.8(4) **Emergency Plans**

441 IAC 110.8(4) "b" The provider must have procedures in place for the following:

1. evacuation to safely leave the facility
2. relocation to a common, safe location after the evacuation
3. shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where you are when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue
4. lock down protocol to protect children and providers from an external situation
5. communication plan and plans for reunification with families
6. continuity of operations plans
7. Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs

441 IAC 110.14(3) **Facility requirements**

441 IAC 110.14(3)" c" The home shall have a minimum of two direct exits to the outside from the main floor.

1. If the second level or the basement of the home is used for the provision of child care, other than the use of a restroom, each additional child-occupied floor shall have at least one direct exit to the outside in addition to one inside stairway.
2. All exits shall terminate at grade level with permanent steps.
3. A basement window may be used as an exit if the window can be opened from the inside without the use of tools and it provides a clear opening of not less than 20 inches in width, 24 inches in height, and 5.7 square feet in area. The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44 inches above the floor, with permanent steps inside leading up to the window
4. Occupancy above the second floor shall not be permitted for child care.

Findings:

An annual compliance check was completed on 6/4/24 and the following was out of compliance:

441 IAC 110.8(4) “b” The provider must have procedures in place for the following:
evacuation to safely leave the facility
relocation to a common, safe location after the evacuation
shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where you are when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue
lock down protocol to protect children and providers from an external situation
communication plan and plans for reunification with families
continuity of operations plans
Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs.
Nita did not have this and did not recall ever having an Emergency Preparedness plan. We did discuss reaching out to CCR&R for assistance in this area.

441 IAC 110.14(3)“c” The home shall have a minimum of two direct exits to the outside from the main floor.
If the second level or the basement of the home is used for the provision of child care, other than the use of a restroom, each additional child-occupied floor shall have at least one direct exit to the outside in addition to one inside stairway.
All exits shall terminate at grade level with permanent steps.
A basement window may be used as an exit if the window can be opened from the inside without the use of tools and it provides a clear opening of not less than 20 inches in width, 24 inches in height, and 5.7 square feet in area. The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44 inches above the floor, with permanent steps inside leading up to the window
Occupancy above the second floor shall not be permitted for child care.
Nita does provide care in the lower level of her home. She does have an egress window but did not have permanency steps leaving up to it. this was also an area out of compliance last year. Nita had sent pictorial verification after last year's check of compliance but on this date, she had a step-ladder in front of the window which is not an appropriate "permanent steps".

Although not an area where she was out of compliance in today, we discussed the number of children she is allowed to have as a Category B provider. This is something this worker discusses at each year's annual check. Nita seemed to be under the impression she could have 12 children at all times without an assistant. We discussed that she can have 8 preschoolers and an additional 4 school agers but that is intended to be only before and after school for 2 hours. If she has more than the 8 on a regular basis, she has to have an assistant present to help with coverage up to the 4 additional school age kids. Nita seemed to believe that exceptions had been made for COVID and we discussed that although exceptions were made at that time, that exception has not been in place for some time. She also commented that it was her understanding she was "grandfathered" in and could thus have more kids, but I again noted what she is allowed as a category B provider. She indicated at most she has 8 kids and I told her that is in compliance with what she can have.

Suggestions/Recommendations:

A re-check is not needed at this time. Corrections need to be made by 6/25/24 and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check. Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted below.

I encourage you to work with Black Hawk County Child Care Resource and Referral at 319 233-0804 with any ongoing compliance or training needs.

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

Corrective Action Required:

Nita needs to develop an Emergency Preparedness plan and send pictorial verification when completed.

Nita needs to have permanent steps leading up to her egress window that is her secondary exit from the lower level of the home where she provides childcare. She needs to send pictorial verification when completed.

Non-compliance with any of the mandated 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at DHS at 319-429-0749 or cweber@dhs.state.ia.us if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Christine Weber

Social Worker II

Sheila Aunspach

Social Work Supervisor

Always Remember:

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 877-216-8481

As you plan your future trainings to meet your 24 hours of training requirement, please remember that you can access the approved training by going to http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Care/Professional_Development.html

You may also access training at: https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/trainingregistry/

All providers need to maintain compliance with rules set out in Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110, which includes: 441 IAC 110.5(1): Check with the appropriate authorities to determine how the following local, state, or federal laws apply to you: • Zoning code • Building code • Fire code • Business license • State and federal income tax • Unemployment insurance • Worker's Compensation • Minimum wage and hour requirements • OSHA • Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).