Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Itty Bitty Childcare

Provider Name: Itty Bitty Childcare

Provider No.: 50264

Address: 3960 Willowbrook DR, Marion, IA, 52302

E-Mail:

County: Linn

Phone Number: 5633703354

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 2/19/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [X] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

1. Basic Overview

Lainey became a Registered childcare provider in 2018. She did report having several years of experience prior in a few childcare centers including an Early Headstart program. Lainey was rated level 4 on the previous quality rating scale. She is currently rated level 3 on the current IQ4K quality rating scale and is currently working on the level 4 criteria. Lainey does participate in the Food Program. Lainey shared that she will care for children between the ages of infant through up until they enter Kindergarten. She does not care for school-aged children. She did clarify that although she will take infants, she prefers children to be 1 year of age. Lainey does have a dog. She shared that her dog rarely interacts with the childcare children. Lainey has a designated space for childcare in the lower level of her home. It is designated specifically for childcare and set up accordingly. She does have a bathroom and small refrigerator and microwave. Lainey has a fenced in back yard with a swing set and climbing gym. This area also includes a grass mat for safe fall surfacing. Lainey does not have an approved substitute or assistant.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Lainey had 3 children present when this worker arrived and an additional child arrived while I was present. Lainey does have one child of her own that is not yet of school age that did count towards her number of children allowed in care at one time. This worker observed Lainey provide the last child with breakfast upon.

Lainey shared that she does have structure and routine in her day. While this worker was present it was their designated free play time and I observed the two 4 year old girls building structures with the Magnetic tiles. Lainey did a nice job re-directing the two younger children away from the girls so as not to knock down the structure they were building. This worker did observe Lainey to calmly and appropriately re-direct the two younger children and offer alternative items for play. Lainey described that she tries to get the children outside twice per day and noted that she will follow the weather chart to assess safe weather conditions.

Lainey shared that she communicates quite regularly with the parents. She sends weekly photos of things the children did in care and communicates daily at pick up and drop off. She shared that she has done a quarterly newsletter in the past. Lainey shared that for the children under the age of 2, she will do a daily sheet noting diaper changes, what they ate and information on their nap.

As noted above, Lainey is currently rated level 3 on the IQ4K quality rating system and her contract/policies was nicely written and included much more than the 2 minimum required policies. Her files/documentation was all nicely organized in separate sleeves and all within a binder which allowed this worker to easily review her documentation while she was able to continue to care for and supervise the children.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.8 (4) b : Procedures are in place for:
Evacuation to safely leave the facility,
Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation,Shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where the child is when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue,
Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation,
Communication and reunification with families,
Continuity of operations, and
Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs.
Lainey did have an Emergency Preparedness Plan however she should make a few updates/modifications to include a bit more detail on her relocation sites both within the neighborhood and outside of the neighborhood depending on the type of emergency situation.
*Lainey needs to send pictorial verification of those updates to this worker when completed.

110.9(4) : An individual file is maintained for each child and updated annually or when there are changes.
Lainey shared that she does have the parents review the kids file annually, but they were not initialed and dated as such.
*Lainey should have parents review the children's files at least annually and have them sign/initial and date accordingly to verify they have been reviewed.

A re-check is not needed at this time. The above corrections should be made within 3 weeks (by 3/12/26) and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check.
Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted above to christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov or text to 319-429-0749.

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

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

NA

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5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Lainey shared that she does not transport the childcare children.
Lainey shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool but will use a sprinkler or water table for other water play.
We did discuss safe sleep policies.
We did discuss the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a Category B provider.

As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. As noted above, Lainey does need to make a few adjustments to her EPP. Lainey also needs to send pictorial verification to HHS. She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

Recommendations:
Lainey did not yet have anything written in regard to notifying parents in writing that the state does allow parents to submit an exemption for immunizations (either religious or medical) in lieu of the immunization record for each child. This is a new policy effective 7/1/25 so we did discuss this, and she agreed to get that documented accordingly.

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: on 2/26/26 Lainey sent pictorial verification of her updated Emergency Preparedness Plan.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 2/27/2026

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 2/19/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory 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.

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 I encourage you to work with Janey Schmitt with Child Care Resource and Referral if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs. Janey Schmitt can be reached at 563-286-0694