Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Storm Lake Early Childhood Center

Provider No.: 32605

Address: 525 Oates St, Storm Lake, IA, 50588

County: Buena Vista

Director's Name: Irene Mayland

On-Site Supervisor: Deanna Reed

Phone Number: 7127321358

E-Mail: jedwards@udmo.com
dhelget@udmo.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/19/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/21/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: NAEYC

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 12:30 PM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Friday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		40	160		200
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at the Storm Lake Early Childhood Center on 11/25/25. I was able to speak with multiple staff along with On-site supervisor Deanna Reed. Deanna is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and on-going training. Her commitment to children is evident through her work. The center operates in a collaborative agreement with the Storm Lake School District as part of the Storm Lake Early Childhood Campus where programming is provided by the Early Head Start, Head Start, and the school district to preschool and special needs children. The program serves children 2 - 5 years of age. There are currently 108 children enrolled in the program and 96 children at the time of my visit.

All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed

There are two buildings located on a common property that comprise the Early Learning Campus and are identified as the East Elementary, and Gingerbread House buildings. The Head Start program consolidated all classes to the Gingerbread House building. Each classroom contains a variety of activity centers, thoughtfully arranged using furniture, shelving, and play structures to create distinct learning areas. The available centers include reading, fine and gross motor manipulatives, arts and crafts, puzzles, math, science, media, large group, and dramatic play. Each center was observed to offer a diverse selection of age-appropriate toys and materials, all of which were in good condition and suitable for the developmental levels of the children present.

The program implements the Creative Curriculum, a research-based, play-centered approach that fosters children's development through hands-on exploration, guided discovery, and meaningful interactions. This curriculum emphasizes learning through play as a primary vehicle for promoting cognitive, social-emotional, and physical growth. The center

implements Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a proactive, evidence-based framework that promotes positive behavior and creates a supportive learning environment. Through consistent expectations, positive reinforcement, and developmentally appropriate guidance strategies, PBIS helps children learn social-emotional skills, build self-regulation, and engage in respectful, cooperative behavior. Staff model and teach expected behaviors, using encouragement and redirection to support a safe and nurturing classroom culture.

Positive staff-child interactions were observed throughout the visit. All staff members were actively engaged with the children, providing support, encouragement, and responsive communication during activities and routines.

Effective health and safety procedures are in place throughout the center. Each classroom is equipped with a first aid kit, and an additional, more comprehensive supply is maintained in the office. A nurse is available on-site to support the program's health needs. Staff were observed taking a first aid kit with them when transitioning outdoors to the playground, demonstrating preparedness. The center also maintains clear and well-implemented medication policies and procedures, including proper authorization, secure storage, accurate administration, and thorough documentation. Handwashing and cleaning practices were generally observed to be appropriate and consistently followed.

The center has a full kitchen where meals are prepared on-site, with posted menus offering a variety of nutritious options. Safe food handling and storage practices were observed in the kitchen. However, food items stored in kitchen must be kept in airtight, food-grade containers and dated once opened, as reviewed with staff. Each class eats at separate tables with staggered mealtimes. Meals are served family-style, allowing children to serve themselves with teacher support as needed. Teachers sit and eat with the children to provide supervision and model healthy eating habits.

The center features a large main playground located between the two buildings, along with several smaller play areas surrounding the Gingerbread House building. The main playground includes two climbing structures, a swing area, a natural open play space, and a designated toddler area. All equipment was observed to be in good repair, and issues noted in the previous report have been addressed and corrected

Radon inspection was completed, and results were within normal limits. Fire and tornado drills are conducted monthly, along with regular playground safety inspections.
The center fosters a very positive atmosphere that supports and enhances the learning process. Warm, respectful interactions between staff and children contribute significantly to this environment, as teachers consistently engage with children in encouraging, responsive, and developmentally appropriate ways.

One of the program's current goals is to increase its IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) level by continuing to strengthen quality practices across all areas, including curriculum implementation, staff development, and family engagement.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program is accredited by NAEYC and actively participates in the IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) initiative, both of which are designed to promote and implement best practice standards in early childhood education. Achieving and maintaining these certifications requires significant time and effort, reflecting the staff's strong commitment to providing a high-quality, developmentally appropriate program for all children.

The center serves as a valuable resource to the community, providing high-quality early childhood education and support to families in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Please completed annual furnace inspection.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 11/24/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.