Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: As We Grow Childcare and Preschool

Provider No.: 49802

Address: 10015 NW 61st AVE, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Amanda Fowles

On-Site Supervisor: Angela Houghman

Phone Number: 5154146458

E-Mail: director@aswegrow-childcare.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/16/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2026 to 07/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/03/2024

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Shawn Benberg--Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Dept, Fire Prevention Specialist

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	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:45 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	28	25	42	17	112
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed 6/16/26 The director/owner and assistant director were present during the visit.

As We Grow Childcare and Preschool has been operating since 2018 in Johnston, IA. They provide traditional child care for children age 6 weeks to age 12, 6:45 AM to 5:50 PM Monday through Friday year round. The building is solely occupied by the daycare as the building was designed for this function. The owner and Director is Amanda Fowles. Amanda has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Amanda has prior experience as a preschool teacher and owned her own in-home registered daycare for 13 years. Amanda meets qualifications to be Director. Angela Houghman is the Assistant Director and has worked at this center since 2020. She meets the criteria to for this position.

Room Observation/Activities: The center uses their own curriculum based on the Creative Curriculum. The classrooms use themes and there are weekly lesson plans based on weekly themes which are posted in the rooms and on the application (Bright Wheel) for parents. Children were content and engaged in a transition time to rest or individual activities during this visit. Staff were in ratio and were nurturing with the children while maintaining good structure in the classrooms. The classrooms were clean and organized; offering a variety of toys and play centers.

Nutritional Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated cook. Menus are crafted by the director, in a four week seasonal rotation that appear in line with CACFP guidelines. The kitchen and food storage were very organized and clean. Menus were posted. Meals and snack are served family-style in the classrooms. The center offers morning snack, Lunch and after noon snack and additional nutrition if someone requires as well.

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Health and Safety: Medication is kept secure with rescue or emergency medicine kept in the classroom (secure). There were first aid kits in the rooms. Tornado and Fire emergency exit plans were posted in the rooms and emergency drills were documented to have been completed as required. Radon testing was completed 6/2/25 with all test values under the 4.0 safety threshold. HVAC is maintained/inspected professionally; and the bill had not yet been provided to the center for this year's check, the prior year was dated 6/12/24. There are two carbon monoxide detectors at the center. The center has an emergency preparedness plan in place if needed; and this will be discussed at monthly staff meetings and upon hire for staff.

Playground: The playground offers play equipment; shade structures and safety surfacing of wood chips. The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing. Playground safety checks completed as required.

Transportation: The Johnston School district does provide transportation to/from school to this center for Developmental Kindergarten.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has been set up with good centers and good flow through the building.

The center has a Facebook page as well as a website.

The center has a secure entrance that is located adjacent to the director's office that incorporates additional monitoring.

The center has cameras in the classrooms.

The director and assistant director work well with teachers to maintain a good structure in the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
-Staff files reviewed indicated staff yearly training was missing
-The director and assistant director will review staff files to ensure staff are getting required yearly training
-The director and assistant director are able to provide resources for yearly training opportunities

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-Staff files reviewed indicated some expired first/aid CPR or incomplete trainings
-The assistant director/director indicated that the center has teachers attend in a group for budgetary and staffing reasons, and expected a first/aid CPR class to be set in June/July

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed 6/2/25 with all values under the required 4.0 safety level.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The center director and assistant director indicated as of late behavior management techniques seem to be successful; there is time spent a monthly staff meetings to introduce a variety of behavior management techniques. The center indicated the ability to work with the parents or outside resources

such as AEA if this is necessary also.

Date: 06/17/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.