Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Granger Children's Center

Provider No.: 25849

Address: 1813 Walnut St, Granger, IA, 50109

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Jackie Smyth

On-Site Supervisor: Jocie Guzzi-Wunschel and Paula Alvarado

Phone Number: 5159999490

E-Mail: grangerchildren@aol.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/08/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2026 to 06/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/18/2024

Comments: State Fire Marshals/inspectors inspections are due at least every three years.

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	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 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	45	15	81	60	201
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 5/8/26. The on-site supervisors were present for this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Granger Children's Center is owned and directed by Jackie Smyth. Jackie opened the center in 1999. The center has been in its current location since 2001. In 2014, a large addition was constructed/added to the exiting center. In 2022, a large, indoor gym area was added.

As stated above, Jackie Smyth is the owner/director. Jocie Guzzi-Wunschel and Paula Alvaradoare are the on-site supervisors. Both individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisor. The center serves children ages six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age utilizing the Creative Learning Curriculum. There are a total of 13 classrooms. Total enrollment on the day of the inspection was 170 children.

During the inspection, children were observed napping in cribs, being held by staff, tummy time on the floor, eating lunch, and napping on cots. Toys are being sanitized daily. Staff and children gave specific answers as to where children and staff relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills. Good staff - child interactions were observed.

NUTRITION: The center serves an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack to children. Older children eat in the lower level of the building. Younger children eat in their classrooms. Menus are posted for the month. There is a kitchen where meals

are prepared. All food storage was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center owns three vans they use. The vans are serviced regularly. Children four and older are eligible to go on field trips. Booster seats are provided by the center. For all transportation needs, children's emergency contacts and a first-aid kit are taken along. The vans are serviced regularly.

PLAYGROUND: The center has four different sections on the playground based on ages of the children. There are climbing structures and riding toys as well as other outdoor toys for children to use. Rubber matting is used for surfacing. The fence and gates still have several bolts that need to be cut so that no more than two threads are showing. Bungee cords should not be used to hold gates closed. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted. There is also an indoor gym when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

For more challenging child behaviors, the center shares emails that are periodically sent out by this consultant. They also talk to staff consistently about child behaviors, knowing thresholds, working together as a team, and asking for assistance from management if needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Many of the staff have been with the center for several years. There is low turnover. Staff reportedly work well together.

Several staff members are bi-lingual. In some classrooms, children are taught Spanish.

All entrance/exit doors sound/buzz when opened.

Quarterly staff meetings are held. Individual classroom meetings are held more often, but are more informal in nature.

There are secure entrances into classroom areas.

Over the past year, the center has done some touch up painting in classrooms.

A camera system is in place throughout hallways.

The center received 100% on their last five immunization audits.

Management felt that they have a good team working for them (many tenured staff) and that staff also have good relationships with the parents and children they serve.

The center smelled and looked clean.

Enrollment remains steady.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
There were some dangling cords that needed to be more securely fastened to walls and/or tucked behind other equipment in some classrooms.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
1. There are still some bolts along the fence and gates that are more than two threads showing.
2. Bungee cords shouldn't be use to hold gates closed.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering

area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
Diapering mats should be non-embroidered.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last conducted 5/8/23 - 5/11/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 4/10/26.

I - Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff should have I - Power profiles and be uploading training certificates. Mandatory Reporter as well as First-Aid/CPR will most likely always have to be manually uploaded to profiles by staff. Any staff no longer employed at the center should be unlinked from the center's I - Power list.

The most current diapering procedures were again emailed to the center after the inspection concluded.

It was noted that one infant crib mattress not in use was torn and should be repaired and/or discarded.

It is recommended that dividers be installed in restrooms that have more than one toilet present.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent into HHS on 4/15/26.

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Date: 05/11/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.