Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sunset Ridge Child Care Academy

Provider No.: 52765

Address: 205 S 27th St, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Rocio Alfaro, Tiearra McLey

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 4024153535

E-Mail: sunsetridgechildcareacademy@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/13/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/07/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] 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	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	36	20	26	8	90
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Sunset Ridge Child Care Academy on 3/13/26. This is a new center located in a residential and business area. The building is one story and was previously a child care center. Child care services are offered to infants to school age children from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. There are 46 children enrolled. Twenty-nine children were present during my visit. Rocio Alfaro is the owner and she and Tiearra McLey are the directors. Grisela Madrid-Flores is the on-site supervisor. Tierra was an elementary school teacher and now works at the center full time. She has a master's degree in elementary education and is currently working on NAC. Rocio also has an in-home child care in Nebraska. I met with Tiearra on the day of my licensing visit. Rocio was in the kitchen preparing lunch.

Observation of rooms:
The center has four programming rooms and an area for school-age children. The school age children use the dining area behind the kitchen. Tiearra walked me through all the rooms on the day of my visit. All of the staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children. The children were observed having fun playing. All rooms were in ratio. The school age children were in school at the time of my licensing visit. Tiearra completes the lesson plans/activities for the rooms with the teachers' input. The center uses the Brightwheel child care app. They are working on IQ4K. The infant room is for six weeks to 12-14 months. Once the children start walking, they go to the transition room which is for one-year olds. There is a toddler room for two- to three-year-old children. There is a preschool room for three- and four-year-old children. Toys are rotated every two months and sometimes more often in the preschool room.

Nutrition:
Meals are prepared on site. Rocio and Tiearra float between the kitchen and being in ratio. Proper food storage was

observed. The center had menus. Thermometers were in the refrigerator and freezer. The center is trying to get on the federal food program.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. One radon test was completed in February 2026 and was in the acceptable range; however, Tiearra was not aware they needed to complete radon testing for every room the children occupy. Tiearra stated she would get every room tested. In the previous report, it stated the center had all electrical appliances; however, they actually have fuel burning appliances. Tiearra said they have a gas furnace and hot water heater. Tiearra was not aware she needed to have a fuel burning inspection completed annually, but she agreed she would get one done. Sheets are washed weekly. There is a first aid kit in the office that is fully stocked. Tiearra reported they follow proper medication procedures if a child is prescribed medication. Tiearra and Grisela are medication certified. There is one child on an inhaler and the inhaler stays with the teacher at all times. The center uses Purell Surface for sanitizing and disinfecting. They sanitize toys daily or if mouthed.

Playground:
The center has a fenced playground. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing. Tiearra completes the monthly playground safety checks.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative files:
Two staff files were read and were in excellent order. Seven children’s files were read and were in good order. One file did not have an emergency contact or a form giving permission for someone other than the mother to pick up the child. The center would like to apply for IQ4K in the future. The center works with Child Care Resource and Referral and their Child Care Nurse Consultant as needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This is a new center that opened on 3/10/25. They are building enrollment. They are a wonderful resource for the community. All staff members are bilingual. Rocio and Tiearra are very excited and proud of the new center. Tiearra believes they have phenomenal hands-on staff. Their staff love the children they care for. Staff are willing to do what they need to do to make sure the children have fun and are well cared for. The center participates in community events. Staff are not allowed to have their phones with them so they stay focused on the children. Although Tiearra is very proud of their playground, they would like to make some modifications and cosmetic changes. The center works with Child Care Resource and Referral on applying for grants. There are cameras in every room and Tiearra would like exterior cameras.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center’s care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent. Six children's files were reviewed. One file did not have any emergency contacts, nor did they have a list of people that are able to pick up the child in the event the parent is unable to do so.

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. An annual fuel burning inspection was not completed. The center has a fuel burning furnace and hot water heater. An annual fuel burning inspection is due prior to heating season.

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

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 3/1/25 to 3/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Tiearra their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Tiearra said they train all staff with preventative measures. She wants staff to be proactive. Staff need to know what triggers the children and then the teachers will know what to look for. Every room has a walkie-talkie and is able to call Tiearra or Rocio for help when behaviors occur. Tiearra will remove a child from the room to calm them down and then when the child returns to the room, Tiearra communicates with the class and teacher. Tiearra also said if a teacher is having a bad day or is frustrated with children, they are able to send them home for the day. Their teachers recognize it as support and not a punishment.

Date: 03/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.