Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Wolverine Den Child Care Center

Provider No.: 18150

Address: 15 2nd ST NW, West Bend, IA, 50597

County: Palo Alto

Director's Name: Samantha Hanselman

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5158877777

E-Mail: director.wolverineden@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/16/2026

Licensing Period:

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/24/2024

Comments:

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	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:00 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	10	10	20	26	66
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A scheduled annual visit was made to The Wolverine Den Child Care Center on 02-16-26 where I met with the center director, Samantha Hanselman, and board members Joleen Bernau, and Mindy Schmidt. The licensing visit was scheduled to coincide with Samantha's starting date with center. Samantha does have prior experience working in early childhood care in licensed child care centers, and as a paraprofessional with the Algona school district. Samantha also has completed some professional development trainings in the past but will be completing additional training within the next 6 months to fully meet the requirements for a center director. Joleen and Mindy have been very instrumental in working to address concerns with the center over the past couple of months to update administrative records, and improve programming in the classrooms. The program is operated out of the old St. Peter and Paul Catholic Elementary School building in West Bend. The center is operated separately from the school and church as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The school and church is still responsible for maintenance of the building, and also continues to make use of classroom spaces at times when the center is not in operation. No other services or programs are provided in the building during the hours when the center is in operation. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are currently 21 children enrolled in the program served by 10 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The physical structure and layout of the building and classrooms remain the same as in prior reports with some changes to the classroom arrangements. The center is currently using three classrooms though additional rooms are available for expansion if needed. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and serve as secondary emergency egress. The infant and preschool rooms have a toilet and sink located just off the programming space so that children do not need to leave the room. Additional toilets are located off the main hallway which are available for school age children. Changing stations were available in the infant, and younger preschool

rooms for those children that were not fully toilet trained. Each room was observed to be clean and while there were some minor maintenance issues nothing rose to the level of being a safety concern. The infant room is divided into two areas through the use of low shelving units and mobile gates. The dividers create a sleeping and changing station area, and the remaining space is used for programming. The preschool and school age rooms have an open design where activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures that were arranged so as to not create any blind areas.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed in each classroom on the day of my visit. While the daily attendance was limited with only 1 infant and 6 preschool age children present the teachers were actively engaged with the children and presenting the planned curriculum. With only one child present in the infant room the teacher was able to be very focused on providing care and interaction with the child moving from direct care activities such as diapering, to curriculum activities such as walking, and reading to the child. In the preschool room the teacher again had a strong curriculum focus with reading to the children in a large group setting. The center uses a general curriculum theme focus for all classrooms which is posted at the main parent notice board. Each classroom then develops activities to implement that theme into their classroom schedule. The general theme at the time of the visit was Valentines. The center uses a positive behavior support approach to managing behavior. Good techniques were observed with the teachers providing reminders, using redirection, and positive recognition. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and the teacher demonstrated good diapering practices. Good hand washing practices were observed for both staff and children with washing their hands after diapering/restroom use, before meals, and other times as needed. Tables were cleaned and sanitized before meal service. Chemical cleaners, medications, personal items, and other things that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. First aid kits are maintained in classrooms and had materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. There were no infants under 1 year of age attending the center on the day of my visit but safe sleep requirements were reviewed. One significant change to the infant room was the removal of the tall panel dividers which had created limited sight lines in the past. With the current arrangement not only do children have more room for programming activities but staff are able to observe all areas of the classrooms including cribs regardless of relative positioning. Cots used for older children and appropriate bedding was present.

Meals are contracted through the local adult care facility and brought into the center in coolers for hot/cold temperature holding. The center does have an electric roaster, and refrigerators to maintain hot and cold holding temperatures until meals are served. Refrigerators are present in each classroom and thermometers were present in all refrigeration/freezer units as required. The center does maintain some food at the center and good food storage and handling practices were generally observed for both refrigerated and dry pantry items. Meals are served to the children pre-portioned and the staff do provide supervision at the tables. Staff wear food service gloves when plating meals and handling food. Measured scoops are used to ensure that each child received a full portion. A copy of the menu was been posted and did identify a good variety of nutritious meal options. \

The center does have two playground areas with one for older school age children, one for younger infants through preschool age children. The school age playground has a fenced area with climbing equipment, a paved basketball court, and a large open grassy area. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures. Shade is provided by a covered sandbox area, and the climbing structure. It was identified that the playground is not being used currently but it was reported that maintenance would be provided including aeration of pea gravel used for fall surfacing before resuming use later in the spring. The other playground is of newer construction which was completed in 2023 and consists of a fenced area with an awning cover and artificial turf over soft surfacing with no climbing structures.

All required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, License Certificate, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contacts, handwashing, diapering, daily schedule, curriculum, and menu were also present. In reviewing administrative records as noted board members had been in continual contact regarding what elements were required for child and staff files, and other inspection documentation. All child and staff files had been updated by the time of the visit and contained all required documentation. In reviewing required inspection logs and certificates all were current and available. A radon mitigation system was installed in October of 2025. The center Parent Handbook was reviewed and

found to contain all required written policies though it was recommended that some be expanded to provide additional information such as Transportation policy stating that the center does not transport children to/from the child's home or school and that parents are responsible for this, and Immunization requirements do allow for valid exemption certificates for religious and medical reasons.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None Cited

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect 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 following year.

Date: 02/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.