Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Ruth O'Neal-Lewis

Provider Name: Ruth O'Neal-Lewis

Provider No.: 21621

Address: 235 Baltimore ST, Waterloo, IA, 50701

E-Mail:

County: Black Hawk

Phone Number: 3196106503

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 3/9/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [X] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

1. Basic Overview

Ruth shared that she has been providing childcare since around 1998. She shared that she was initially non-registered but later got Registered with the state. She did previously participate in the prior quality rating system and at one time was rated level 1. She does not participate in the current IQ4K quality rating system. Ruth does participate in the Food Program. Ruth is willing to care for children ages infant through school age. Ruth did share that she is in the process of trying to open a childcare center with her sister who also does in home childcare. The targeted date is 4/1/26. Ruth did share that she will likely keep her home registration in effect in the event the center does not work out. Ruth only utilizes the main level of her home for childcare. She does have a fenced in back yard. Ruth does not have any pets. Ruth does not have an approved substitute or assistant.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Ruth had two children present on the date of this visit. They were in the kitchen when this worker arrived, and Ruth shared that she had just provided them a snack (banana). This worker viewed the childcare space for compliance and Ruth moved the two children into the living room and turned on a cartoon for them.

Ruth's policies did include more than the 2 minimum policies.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.8(4)a. The emergency plan for fire and tornado shall clearly map building evacuation routes in case of fire, a safe place indoors in case of tornado, and flood shelter areas.

Ruth had emergency plans at her primary and secondary exit but her emergency relocation sites were different on each one and that also differed from her Emergency Preparedness Plan.

*Ruth needs to update her Emergency plans for fire and tornado that are posted at her exits. Ruth needs to send pictorial verification to HHS.

110.8 (4) b : Procedures are in place for:
Evacuation to safely leave the facility,
Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation,Shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where the child is when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue,
Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation,
Communication and reunification with families,
Continuity of operations, and
Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs.

Ruth's relocation site on her EPP was different from her site identified on her emergency plan for fire and tornado that are posted at her entrances.

Ruth also had several areas of her plan that lacked detail and were not clear.

This worker did provide her an EPP format as an example that had suggestions on the type of information to include in each section.

*Ruth needs to update her EPP and send pictorial verification to HHS.

110.9(4) : An individual file is maintained for each child and updated annually or when there are changes.

Ruth did not have annual updates for all of the children's files.

*Ruth needs to ensure that the parents review/update each child's file at least annually or more often if changes are made and that she has parents sign and date accordingly.

Each file contains:
110.9 (4) d : For infants and preschoolers: An admission physical examination, on the first day of attendance, including past health history, status of present health, allergies and restrictive conditions, and recommendations for continued care when necessary. The date of the exam is not more than 12 months before the child’s first day of attendance.
110.9 (4) e : For infants and preschoolers: A statement of health signed by a physician submitted annually.

Of the 3 files reviewed, Ruth was missing an initial physical for one child.

Ruth was missing updated/annual physicals for 2 children.

*Ruth needs to work with the parents to ensure she has all of the required documentation for each child's file.

A re-check is not needed at this time. The above corrections should be made within 3 weeks (by 3/30/26) and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check.
Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted above to christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov or text to 319-429-0749.

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

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

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NA

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Ruth shared that she does not transport the childcare children.
Ruth shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool.
We did discuss safe sleep policies.
We did discuss the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a Category B provider.

As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. As noted above, Ruth's relocation site on her EPP was different from her site identified on her emergency plan for fire and tornado that are posted at her entrances. Ruth also had several areas of her plan that lacked detail and were not clear.
This worker did provide her an EPP format as an example that had suggestions on the type of information to include in each section.
*Ruth needs to update her EPP and send pictorial verification to HHS.

Recommendations:
Ruth did not yet have anything written in regard to notifying parents in writing that the state does allow parents to submit an exemption for immunizations (either religious or medical) in lieu of the immunization record for each child. This is a new policy effective 7/1/25 so we did discuss this, and she agreed to get that documented accordingly.

Ruth was not able to locate verification of her current Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter training certificate. This was also an identified need at her compliance visit last year. This worker was able to go back and verify she had sent me a picture of her training after last year's visit but Ruth is encouraged to maintain that in her records for verification at her yearly compliance visits..

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: Ruth took steps to correct the items needed and this worker received pictorial verification of the items requested on 3/10/26.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 3/10/2026

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 3/9/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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 I encourage you to work with Black Hawk County Child Care Resource and referral at 319-233-0804 if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs.