Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Yellow Brick Road ECDC - White Birch

Provider No.: 51996

Address: 1620 SW White Birch CIR, Ankeny, IA, 50023

County: Polk

Director's Name: Kerigan Balentine

On-Site Supervisor: Kelsey Cole

Phone Number: 5159641098

E-Mail: kylie.schrader@ybrecdc.org
kerigan.balentine@ybrecdc.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/06/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/14/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Ankeny Fire Dept--LT Tyson Hood

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 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 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	29	16	78	29	152
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 11-6-25. The director and assistant director were present at the start and needed to leave for bussing, at which time the Regional Director Jamie Balentine arrived to assist.

Yellow Brick Road ECDC White Birch has been at this location since 2005. The new owners are Jessica Johnsen and Kylie Schrader. Jessica and Kylie own centers in Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. They are not a corporation. Kerigan Balentine has been the director since Sept 2025. Kerrigan has previously held the roles of assistant director and lead teacher, bringing several years of experience. Kelsey Cole became the On-Site Supervisor in November of 2022. Kelsey has two prior years of experience in childcare and several hours of childcare related training. Kelsey meets the qualifications for assistant director/on site supervisor.

Yellow Brick Road--White Birch offers traditional childcare to children from the age of infants to-twelve years.

Hours of operation are 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. The center has sole occupancy of the building.

Yellow Brick Road uses the Funny Daffer for curriculum and is designed by Yellow Brick Road to assist in lesson planning and ideas. The Kangaroo Application is used to communicate with parents regarding the child's daily goings on and is live. The classrooms were all nicely arranged with a choice of learning centers and toys. Children were content and teachers were consistently engaged with leading group activities or meeting individuals' needs. There was discussion with teachers and administration regarding one infant mat having a cover with tape that had peeled back and compromised disease suppression. Several other changing mats were observed to have "caked" debris in the seams and in need of replacement and/or deep cleaning.

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Yellow Brick Road offers morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack that are prepared on-site daily. Menus are in-line with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating. The children have snack and meals cafeteria-style with staff closely supervising; infants are fed on demand in their room.

The center has an outdoor playground, separated by ages and enclosed. There is play equipment and adequate shade when needed.

Transportation/Field Trips: the center has transportation via 15-20 passenger vans that are professionally maintained.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center works closely with parents, communicates well with the parents and strives to have a positive relationship with the parents.

The center has a website, and the older three rooms send out a monthly newsletter.

The center has a secure entrance. There are not yet cameras.

The staff work well together and as a team; from the Director and assistant director and classrooms teachers.

The center provides professional development days, that are set to include updating required training along with annual tranings.

The center director and assistant director are very organized and responsive to the needs of the children and the teachers.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a All files contain: 1. Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check 2. Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable. 3. Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request. 4. Copies of national criminal history check results. 5. Any department issued document regardless of outcome

109.9(1)b All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470- 5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

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.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free...Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

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

A staff file reviewed lacked Iowa Background and National Background checks; the director stated these would be located or performed immediately along with an email to this consultant upon completion.

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A staff file reviewed lacked a physical exam form or note of examination. The director had already identified this need and discussed with the staff member to get the required exam and/or documentation as soon as possible. The director will then place documentation on file.

Some staff files reviewed indicated expired CPR/First Aid certifications. The director acknowledged this need and schedule a professional development day for staff, to include CPR/First Aid training. The director will then place the updated completion certificates on file.

An infant changing mat had a cover, that was patched with a clear piece of tape that was receding and collecting dirty and other debris. Changing mats in the toddler rooms were observed to have quite a bit of visible "caked" on debris in the seams of the mat. The mats (or cover) are in need of replacement and/or deep cleaning as the current conditions compromise disease suppression. There was discussion with the director regarding this concern and the director will ensure replacement and/or deep cleaning takes place.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed 1/23/25 and all test values were below the recognized 4.0 safety level. Testing will be due again in 2033.

*The center will need to resume playground checks and continue as required. The form was not immediately available during the annual visit.

This center was observed in the afternoon, right as bussing and nap/afternoon snack transitions were occurring. Teachers, including the director and assistant director worked as a team and were consistently meeting children's needs from transitioning from rest to snack or bussing from school. The children were content and responded to the structure in the center during a time of many transitions.

Date: 11/09/2025

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**.