Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Story Book Child Care & Preschool

Provider No.: 50734

Address: 515 Broad St, Story City, IA, 50248

County: Story

Director's Name: Mariah Duszynski

On-Site Supervisor: Christin Larkin

Phone Number: 5157330100

E-Mail: storybookchildcare@hotmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/08/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/15/2025

Comments: Fire Inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Seth Jones, Dept of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing DIAL

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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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	8	20	15		43
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual licensing visit was completed on 12-8-25. The owner/director Mariah Duszynski was present through the visit and assistant director Christin Larkin was present during times of the visit.

Mariah Duszynski is the director/owner. Mariah has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and operated a registered child care home for six years prior to opening this daycare center. Mariah also has prior experience as a preschool teacher and an assistant director. Mariah meets qualifications to be the director. Christin Larkin is assistant director, starting in this role in April of 2022. Christin has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Music and has twenty prior years of experience in a childcare setting. Christin meets qualifications for this role.

The center offers care to children from the age of 6 weeks up to around 10 years of age. The center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The center offers full and part time care.

This center has three separate classrooms and uses the Creative Curriculum with teaching strategies gold, as well as some aspects of the Pocket of Preschool curriculum. The center uses themes in the toddler classroom and Project Approach. There is an infant room that will serve infants 6 weeks up to two years of age. There is a middle classroom for two and three year old children. There is a preschool classroom that is also used for before and after school programming for school age children that has a capacity for 15 children. This center offers a good variety of play centers and toys that are age/developmentally appropriate. Upon arrival, I was let in to the building by a child without staff awareness; this was immediately addressed by the director and is not the usual observation I have had with this center. Children were observed to be content.

Story Book Child Care and Preschool offers breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. Meals and snacks are in-line with CACFP (healthy guidelines for eating)

Transportation: NA

The center strives for positive and effective communication with families. The center sends out weekly emails to parents with updates and each classroom has their own Facebook page that is private for parents to see pictures of real time events for their children during the day.

The director conducts quarterly staff meetings. The center is closed on the day of the staff meeting to allow staff all day for the meeting and for a potential training day.

The center has a private Facebook page where they post pictures and information.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Story Book Child Care and Preschool has attained Level 4 in IQ4K. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on
PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training provides educators with the skills to implement a school-wide framework for improving student behavior and well-being.

The center has utilized WAGES and TEACH programs: Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa.

TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

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The director and assistant director strive to show staff they are valued and appreciated. Staff are provided snacks and treats and the director lets staff know she is there for them and available for breaks.

The center works well with CCR&R as well as AEA and the school district.

The center has a secure entrance.

The classrooms are well equipped with center activities and developmentally appropriate toys, games and activities.

The center owner/director is now certified to be a CPR/First aid instructor.

The center has guest speakers for the children.

The center has engaged in participation with the WAGES (WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual's level of formal education); and TEACH (T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Upon arrival a child was able to open the door without adult knowledge. This was IMMEDIATELY addressed by the director/owner by the assistant director taking over teaching in the front room and owner providing additional coaching for staff with regard to close supervision and the need to maintain a secure entry. This is out of usual for this center as other observations on this day and for past visits has yielded observations of close supervision by staff.

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

N/A.

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full two year license is recommended.

The center last conducted radon testing 10/24/24 and all rooms tested were below the 4.0 cutoff.

This center offers a good variety of activities and play centers. Staff are engaged with the children and maintain structure/routine. The director, assistant director and staff work as a team. The children were observed to be content and involved in activities.

*The center is currently renovating the immediate adjacent building to provide additional programming space.

Date: 12/18/2025

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**.