Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Lea Baker

Provider Name: Lea Baker

Provider No.: 22038

Address: 119 28th ST SW, Mason City, IA, 50401

E-Mail:

County: Cerro Gordo

Phone Number: 6414300229

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 4/30/2026

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

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1. Basic Overview

I conducted a compliance visit with Registered Child Development Home Category B provider Lea Baker on 4/30/2026. Lea has been involved in child care for 31 years. She continues using the basement level only of her 2 story home. Lea has an egress window and step system to serve as a second exit from this level. Her basement space consists of a large open play area, and another smaller craft/lunch space off the main room. The home was clean and clutter free when I arrived. Lea had 9 children present during our visit and cares for a total of 10 at this time. She has a current exception to policy that runs through 4/30/2027 that allows her one extra under school age child. Lea has no HHS-approved substitutes or assistants at this time. She has a fenced section of her back yard to serve as her outside play area. Lea is due to renew her registration effective 3/31/2027.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Lea demonstrated good multi-tasking skills during our visit. (Transitioning from a table activity with the kids to getting lunch prepared and served.) She has many years of experience and is conscientious about staying in compliance. The children responded well to Lea during their interactions. She describes her primary strength as her effort to maintain a quality operation. She also strives to communicate well with parents and keep her operation organized. Lea describes her curriculum as play based and relationship focused. They do not follow a strict daily or weekly schedule, but regularly have learning based activities that are age appropriate. Lea participates in the Food Program to enhance the nutrition of her meals and snacks.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

Lea was in compliance at this time.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/recommendations

The 2026 targeted compliance for the Emergency Preparedness Plan was conducted. Lea was in compliance having a plan consistent with her current operation.

I encourage Lea to continue working with Kathy Lloyd from Child Care Resource and Referral with any ongoing compliance or training needs.
Kathy can be reached at: (319) 231-9405

Lea cares for one infant under 12 months of age who was not present during our visit. She has cribs for napping and we reviewed safe infant sleeping policies.

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HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Earl Crow Date: 5/8/2026

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