Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Adventure Day Camp

Provider No.: 52506

Address: 720 Grand AVE, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

County: Polk

Director's Name: Owen Ballard

On-Site Supervisor: Jocelyn Ricket

Phone Number: 5152741501

E-Mail: oballard@campfireiowa.org

HHS Visit Date: 07/17/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/19/2026

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing, these inspections are due at least every three years. The City of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday			7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Tuesday			7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Wednesday			7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Thursday			7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Friday			7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	0	100	100
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 7/17/26. The on-site supervisor was present throughout this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Adventure Day Camp (West Des Moines Campus) is a summer only program for school-age children that is owned by Camp Fire Heart of Iowa. The owners have one other program in/near the Des Moines Metro in addition to this program. This consultant only licenses this program. The director of this program is Owen Ballard. Owen has a Bachelor's degree as well as a Master's degree in Administration. Owen also has past experience working in child care and with school-age children. The on-site supervisor at this location is Jocelyn Ricket. Jocelyn has a Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working in child care.

There are six classrooms. Room 304, Room 307, and Room 309 all have capacities of 12 children. Room 311 has a capacity of 24 children. Room 313 has a capacity of 40 children. The center also uses room 302 at times. Children enroll for a week at a time. The center uses their own specific lesson planning with children. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 45 children.

NUTRITION: The center serves children an AM snack and a PM snack. Children/families are responsible for providing their own lunches and cold packs for the lunches. Menus were posted and mostly met CACFP requirements other than juice/milk not being listed on the menus for several meals. Children eat in the main level cafeteria at the tables and chairs.

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Food storage observed was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has their own school bus and their own driver for bigger field trips that are not within walking distance. The center also has two 15-passenger vans. Regular maintenance is performed on the vehicles. For all field trips, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along.

PLAYGROUND: The center utilizes the same playground in the summer months as the preschool uses during the school year. The center also has a large concrete area where they use cones to block off specific areas for play and a large grassy area for more outdoor large motor activities. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted. There are trees that provide shade.

During the inspection, children were observed in classrooms mostly doing different arts and crafts projects. Staff were attentive to children and providing close supervision. Equipment in classrooms are being sanitized daily. Children and staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

For more challenging child behaviors, the program has built in training related to child behavior topics that all staff take annually before summer care begins. These trainings take place for two weeks and focus on "Rule of Three", risk management, behavioral management, and communication among all parties.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment is steady. This is a more unique program where children can register for a week at a time or multiple weeks as needed.

The director and on-site supervisor believe they have really good staff working at this location. The on-site supervisor regularly receives complements from parents on her leadership skills.

The program has a good working relationship with the families they serve.

There are good community partnerships as well as good partnerships with the church and the other preschool program located on a different floor of the building.

This is the second program in the Des Moines area for Adventure Day Camp. The programs can share staff, use the same handbooks, etc.

Good staff/child interactions were observed throughout the inspection.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa’s training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
----------One staff member did not have Essentials training in the hard copy staff file nor I - Power.

109.9(2)k: Any child with special health needs, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
One child needs to have a Food Allergy Action Plan completed.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.

In a few classrooms, dangling cords were observed. These need to be tucked behind other equipment and/or more securely attached to walls.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
1. The drink (milk or juice) was not listed on several days for meals.
2. The schedules need to be adjusted some still so that meals are not less than two hours apart or more than three hours apart. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

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

The below standards identified at this year's inspection should be corrected as soon as possible.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was completed in all classrooms from 8/30/24 - 9/2/24. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual boiler inspection was last completed 12/2025 and expires the end of 12/2026.

It is again recommended that the Emergency Preparedness kit be stored in a container that has wheels for easier transport if ever needed.

It was noted that one child immunization record observed needs to be transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form.

New staff have six months to get a physical on file.

A Food Allergy Action Plan was emailed to the center after the inspection concluded.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The center application and payment was sent in on 6/18/26 per the director.

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Date: 07/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.