Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Children's Inc

Provider No.: 48769

Address: 8912 NE 46th Ave, Altoona, IA, 50009

County: Polk

Director's Name: Melanie Bates

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5155374896

E-Mail: miche8815@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/29/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/28/2023

Comments: 9/27/23 - date of compliance

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	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 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	6	10	17	9	42
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Children's Inc has been in operation since 2006, under a licensed home registration. This center is located in a single standing building. The daycare offers child care services for children ages two through school age. Melanie Bates is the owner and director of this center.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the daycare's entrance. Classrooms have schedules posted by their doors. Classrooms had lesson plans available. Classrooms have age appropriate furnishings and toys in place. Older children's classrooms have interest centers.

An unannounced visit was completed today. Melanie assisted with today's visit. Current enrollment is 33. The infant classroom had three infants present. One staff was working in this room. The Littles classroom (2's - 3's) had nine children present. Two staff were working with this age group. The school age class (4's and up) had fifteen children in attendance. Three staff were working with this class. Children were observed in their classrooms and outdoors. Staff were observed playing games and assisting children with their activities. Children were doing table activities like coloring and playing with playdough. Children were doing large motor play activities outdoors.

The center has a full kitchen. Melanie does the majority of cooking. Menus are on a four week rotation. Menus were reviewed and showed compliance with CACFP. A few staff rotate with cooking duties.

The center has a few outdoor playground areas. Natural shading is present at times. The center puts up temporary shade structures on the days shading is needed. The playground has fencing. There is grass and some concrete for surfacing. Playground checklists are completed monthly.

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The center owns two mini vans that are used for transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Melanie has twenty years of experience working in the child care field prior to Children's Inc becoming a licensed center in 2017. The center worked with CCR&R and participated in QRS as a registered home provider. Melanie has some employees who have worked with her for many years.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required:
A three year old child when on a field trip with the school age children. The child's parent, who is also a staff, went on the field trip so Melanie thought this would be permissible. A three year old cannot be in programming with school age children.

109.11(2)a: The center will provide sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture. It must meet the developmental, activity and special needs of the children.
There was a individual size trampoline in the 2/3's classroom. The trampoline was placed on the floor, without adequate surfacing material. Trampoline and jumping toys require surfacing mats or surfacing material.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.

Date: 08/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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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**.