Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Learning Center Preschool

Provider No.: 39324

Address: 612 Rice Ave, Doon, IA, 51235

County: Lyon

Director's Name: Amy Zevenburger

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7125781365

E-Mail: doonlearningcenter@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/22/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/06/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday			
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday			
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			24		24
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was completed on 10/22/26 at The Learning Center Preschool, where I met with Amy Zevenbergen, Program Director. Amy brings several years of experience working with young children and has developed strong relationships with the children and families served by the program. Her knowledge and dedication are reflected in the welcoming atmosphere and thoughtful learning opportunities available throughout the preschool day.

The preschool is located on the second floor of Doon Christian School and serves children ages three through five. The program utilizes two adjoining classrooms that provide ample space for learning, exploration, and play. Preschool sessions are offered on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The program currently has 17 children enrolled, with 9 children present on the day of the visit.

A review was completed of all areas subject to licensing standards, including classroom activities, health and safety practices, nutrition procedures, transportation and field trip plans, and administrative records.

The classrooms were bright, inviting, and designed to support children's curiosity and learning. Educational materials were readily accessible, and the environment reflected the children's interests and developmental needs. Displays throughout the classroom included the alphabet, colors, shapes, classroom responsibilities, visual schedules, children's artwork, and learning materials related to current studies. The space felt welcoming and child-centered, creating an environment where children appeared comfortable and eager to participate. Children were engaged in a variety of hands-on learning experiences throughout the visit. Staff interacted warmly with children, offering encouragement, asking questions, and participating alongside them during activities. Staff were observed helping children solve problems, guiding discussions, supporting social interactions, and reinforcing classroom expectations in a positive manner. The preschool utilizes Creative

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Curriculum, a play-based approach that allows children to learn through exploration, discovery, and meaningful experiences. Activities are planned around themes that connect learning across multiple developmental areas. At the time of the visit, the classroom theme focused on pets. Children were actively participating in activities related to animals, including a project focused on identifying and comparing animal tracks. Several learning centers were available, including sensory experiences, dramatic play opportunities, building materials, and creative art activities.

The preschool is equipped with a child-sized restroom as well as an additional handwashing sink located within the classroom area, supporting independence and healthy hygiene practices. Families provide snacks for their children, and staff encourage snacks that align with CACFP nutrition recommendations. When needed, healthy alternatives are available. Appropriate food storage practices were observed, including refrigeration of cold snack items. Health and safety practices were observed to be well established. Classroom tables were sanitized appropriately, handwashing procedures were followed, and first aid supplies were available and adequately stocked for minor injuries. Required fire and tornado drills were completed and documented monthly. Required facility inspections, including annual heating system inspections and radon testing, have been completed. The program has installed a radon mitigation system; however, recent testing results remained elevated. Staff reported that additional testing will be completed to ensure the effectiveness of the mitigation efforts and to continue monitoring indoor air quality. A functioning carbon monoxide detector was present, and all areas of the program appeared clean, organized, and well maintained. Sanitation procedures were followed appropriately throughout the visit. Children have access to a grassy outdoor play space for physical activity and outdoor exploration. Existing playground equipment located onsite is older and is not recommended for preschool use. The program continues to focus on providing safe outdoor opportunities while evaluating future improvements.

A highlight of the visit was observing the children in the indoor playroom. The children were enthusiastic and actively engaged in a variety of gross motor activities, including scooter boards and other creative equipment that encouraged movement and exploration. Laughter and excitement filled the room as children participated in the activities together. Equally impressive was the ease with which the children transitioned back to the classroom when the activity ended. Their smooth transition reflected a well-established routine and demonstrated that children are comfortable with the daily schedule and expectations. The consistency provided by staff helps create an environment where children feel confident, secure, and ready to learn.

Overall, The Learning Center Preschool provides a nurturing and engaging environment where children are encouraged to learn through play, explore their interests, and develop meaningful relationships. Strong staff-child interactions, community involvement, hands-on learning experiences, and a commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment are evident throughout the program. Program leadership shared that a future goal is to secure additional funding to support continued growth and enhancement of the preschool experience for children and families.

As an important preschool program within a small community, The Learning Center continues to provide valuable early learning opportunities for local children and families. The program serves as a welcoming place where children can build friendships, develop new skills, and gain confidence as learners.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

A notable accomplishment of the program is its achievement of Level 1 IQ4K certification. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of staff in providing a positive, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment for young children. Participation in IQ4K demonstrates the program's commitment to ongoing growth, high-quality practices, strong family partnerships, and continuous improvement. The certification process helps ensure that children and families receive services that support learning, development, and school readiness.

The Learning Center Preschool is an important part of the Doon community. As the community's only preschool program, it offers families a valuable opportunity for their children to learn and grow in a familiar and supportive environment. The program provides much more than early education; it creates connections among children, families, the school, and the community. Its presence helps ensure that young children have access to meaningful learning experiences and caring relationships during these important early years. The center is clearly a valued asset to the families it serves and the community as a whole.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Amy oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.
I discussed behavior management practices with Amy Zevenbergen. As the sole staff member in the preschool classroom, Amy has developed a strong awareness of her own responses to challenging situations and recognizes the importance of remaining patient and positive when working with young children. She shared that when she begins to feel frustrated, she is able to recognize those feelings and utilize redirection strategies, adjust the activity, or move the class in a different direction to maintain a positive learning environment. Amy indicated that the preschool schedule also supports her ability to remain refreshed and effective in her role. Because the program does not operate full-time every day, she has opportunities to prepare, reflect, and plan engaging learning experiences for the children. This schedule helps her maintain a positive mindset and bring energy and enthusiasm to the classroom.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.