Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Grandma's House Daycare

Provider No.: 3057

Address: 1335 E Washington ST, Clarinda, IA, 51632

County: Page

Director's Name: Morgan Sams

On-Site Supervisor: Kayla Hamilton

Phone Number: 7125425502

E-Mail: Morgan.Sams@ghdc-clarinda.org

HHS Visit Date: 01/28/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/09/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	19	32	38	28	117
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Grandma's House Daycare on 1/28/26. The center is a white building located in the Clarinda Early Childhood Center. The center opened on 2/14/05. The center is a nonprofit organization and is owned by the board. Morgan Sams became the director at the end of 2023. She previously worked at the center from 2018 to 2020. Kayla Hamilton became the on-site supervisor in October 2023 and is now the Assistant Director. Child care services are offered to children six weeks to preschool age 5:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Seventy-seven children are enrolled. I met with Morgan and Kayla during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
All program rooms were in ratio. The rooms looked nice and had an excellent variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Most of the children were observed during nap time. Staff were attentive to the needs of the children. The children's fun artwork was displayed. The baby room is for children six weeks to six months old. There are exersaucers in the room where staff reports are used no more than 15 minutes at a time up to two times a day. The daily sheets looked good. The Mini Cruisers room is for six months to one year old. There is a split wall and on the other side is the Little Cruisers which is 12 months to 18 months old. The Tiny Tots room is for 18 months to 26.5 months. The Tiny Tots room closes the centers during naptime and then opens them up again after naptime is over. The Tiny Tots room was using the same sink for washing their hands in instances of blowing their nose and then also filling water bottles. This has been corrected. The center began putting a water jug in the room so they can continue using the sink for handwashing and the water jug for drinking water for the children. The Mini Learners room is for 26.5 months to 3 ½ years old. The Little Learners is for 3 ½ years old to four years old. In the Little Learners' room, there is one child with an inhaler and one with an EpiPen. The emergency medication is not locked and they have action plans. The center began using the Playground Child Care App in September 2024. The Playground App is for daily sheets and communication with parents. All rooms

had lesson plans/activities. The lead teachers make the lesson plans and Kayla reviews them. The center uses Creative Curriculum. Walking field trips are taken to the library, the fair, Lied Center, etc. Grandma's House School Age Program opened at the Clarinda Elementary School on 2/24/21.

Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. There is a cook on site that prepares breakfast, lunch, and snack. Menus were posted. Please make sure all food is sealed in an air-tight container after opening. Please make sure thermometers are in all refrigerators and freezers.

Health and safety:
The center follows the medication management procedures when children are prescribed medication. The first aid kits were properly stocked. Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. Six radon tests were done in July 2023. All test scores were under a 4.0 pCi/L. Radon testing is due every five years as long as the readings are under 4.0 pCi/L. The building has all electrical appliances. Staff are responsible for cleaning their rooms daily. Purell Surface is used for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Playground:
The playground area is fenced. There is one large piece of equipment for children two years and older. Padded tiles are used for fall surfacing. There is a cement area for riding toys. Monthly playground safety inspections were completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide transportation services. Walking field trips are taken to the park, library, recycling center, livestock auction, and Lied Center.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in excellent order. Children’s files were read and were in excellent order. Staff meetings are held monthly. The center participates in IQ4K level 1. Some staff participate in the WAGE$ program.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Morgan Sams became the director at the end of 2023. She is very positive and enthusiastic about being the director and the center. Morgan is revising/updating the center’s handbook. Staff were positive, nurturing, and attentive to the needs of the children. The center is an excellent resource for the community. The center receives grants for equipment and supplies. Fundraising events are held throughout the year. The center has an active board. They have incentives for the employees to complete training, etc. The center participates in IQ4K level 1. Corrections were completed for the noncompliance items listed in the 2025 license evaluation. Grandma's House School Age Program opened at the Clarinda Elementary School on 2/24/21. The long-term goal is to build a new center that can house both the daycare center and the school age program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 2/1/25 to 2/1/27.

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6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: Grandma's House Daycare is requesting approval to operate a mixed-age classroom serving children 32 months through 48 months of age.

  Purpose
  The purpose of this classroom is to create a developmentally appropriate learning environment while reducing unnecessary classroom transitions for children. Rather than moving children based solely on their birthday, this model allows children to transition when they are developmentally ready and provides greater consistency in relationships with teachers and peers.

  Children will receive individualized assistance with self-help skills, including toileting, handwashing, dressing, and meal routines, as needed. Teachers will ensure learning experiences remain appropriate for the youngest children while providing meaningful opportunities for older children to continue progressing.

  Grandma's House Daycare believes that a classroom serving children 32 through 48 months of age provides a developmentally appropriate learning environment that supports children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. This mixed-age model promotes continuity of care, reduces unnecessary classroom transitions, and allows children to progress based on developmental readiness while maintaining individualized instruction and high-quality supervision.

  Rule Reference:
  IAC specifies mixed age groups allowing the following:
  • 109.8(2)(b). Combinations of age groupings for children three, four, and five years of age may be allowed with a ratio of one staff member to every 12 children. A child 32 mos of age (2.67 yo) is not yet 3
  • d. Combinations of age groupings that do not meet paragraphs 109.8(2)“a” through “c” may be approved by a child care licensing consultant when a program can show developmentally appropriate curriculum for all age groups and can provide sufficient supervision.

  Discussion:
  Children who are two (under three) have a ratio of 1:7. Moving a child under three into a larger age group with a ratio of 1:12, given developmental differences, could pose a risk however Grandma’s House has altered curriculum to adapt.

  Conclusion: This request is approved. A child who is 32 months old and developmentally ready may join the 3, 4, 5 year old group size however, when a child that is 32-48 months old is present, the room must maintain a ratio of 1:7.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 8/5/2026 12:52:57 PM

Date: 02/02/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.