Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Bulldog Daycare

Provider No.: 25641

Address: 201 School St, Orient, IA, 50858

County: Adair

Director's Name: Susan Cruz

On-Site Supervisor: Kaile Neal

Phone Number: 6413446802

E-Mail: susan.cruz@o-mschools.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/05/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2026 to 02/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/24/2023

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years. Please get me a copy of the recent fire inspection.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 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	23	10	11		44
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to the center on 2/5/26. Bulldog Child Care is located in the old Orient/Macksburg K-12 School. Child Care services are provided to infants to preschool age children Monday through Friday 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM year-round. There are two school age children at the center before and after school for very short periods of time. The center operated under the Department of Education until becoming DHHS licensed in 2013. Susan Cruz has been director of the center since 2006. She has her CDA, Associate's Degree as ab Administrative Assistant, and Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. There are 19 children enrolled. The school closed the previous year. The center may move to Greenfield; however, the City of Orient is taking over the school building on 7/1/26 and reportedly is willing to make necessary changes to make the center more efficiently designed to meet the needs of the children. Bulldog Daycare is currently IQ4K level 2. I met with Susan Cruz during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The building is locked and requires staff to let you in the door. The child care center recently moved from the previous location in the school to two different rooms in the building. There are cameras in both rooms. The center has two programming rooms. The infant room is for children six weeks to two years (24 months); however, the center had children in the room that were over 24 months old. This was brought to Susan's attention and she moved the children that are two years old into the other room with the three- and four-year-old children. Initially there were 10 children and three staff, but after moving the two-year-old children to the older room, there were six infants and two staff. Also, in the infant room there is a restroom that the older children would use. All of the children would eat in the infant room. Infants (six weeks to 24 months) are to be free from intrusion of children two years old and over. After moving the children from one room to the other, both rooms were in ratio and there was no longer the intrusion of the older children in the infant room. In the infant room, there was one evacuation crib, but Susan reported that they have two evacuation cribs. I talked with Susan about

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

bringing the other evacuation crib to the infant room and to practice the fire drills and what worked best. The toys are sanitized daily and weekly unless there is sickness and then they sanitize more often. They set the toys aside if mouthed until they are sanitized. Toys are sanitized at the center and then a staff member takes the toys home weekly to run through the dishwasher. The daily sheets looked good and they are on the Brightwheel app. There is a room for children who are two through four years old. Initially, Susan was using it for only three- and four-year-old children, but during my visit, she moved the two-year-old children into the room with the three- and four-year-olds. This brought the total number of children to nine children and two staff. One staff member moved from the infant room to the older children's room so both rooms would be in ratio. The children's artwork is displayed in the room. Additional work needs to be done such as painting. Susan has plans to post family pictures on the wall. There were a variety of toys. Susan reported the toys and equipment are rotated every three months or more often, if needed. I observed the room while the children were at the gym and again when they were napping. There were sheets on cots and cribs. Lesson plans, menus, and emergency diagrams were all posted. Lead teachers do all of the lesson plans. They were trained online and went to some workshops to learn how to write lesson plans after an inspection two years ago. Staff had excellent interaction with the children.

Nutrition:
The center is on the federal food program. They provide breakfast, lunch, and snack. The center provides all baby formula. There were thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer. They wash dishes by hand and use the three-step process.

Health and safety:
Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly. The radon test was done in March 2025 and was in the acceptable range; however, this was for the previous rooms. Please make sure to complete radon testing in the new rooms. Radon testing is due within the first year and every five years as long as the score is under a 4.0 pCi/L. The fuel burning inspection expired in August 2025. There is a carbon monoxide detector. A new fire inspection was completed on 1/30/26; however, Susan does not yet have the fire marshal's report. Please get me the fire marshal's report. There is a first aid kit in the hallway between the two rooms. They have a list of the children's contact information in the kit. There is another first aid kit that goes with when they leave the building and a different first aid kit if they go outside to the playground. There are two sinks in the hallway between the two rooms. The older children use one of the sinks as a handwashing sink. The older children will begin using the restrooms in the school rather than the restroom in the infant room. Please post handwashing signs in the school restrooms. Please make sure children are escorted to the restrooms.

The center is following the correct sanitizing and disinfecting procedures. They are using the three-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. The center uses bleach/water for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water, you must follow the mixing instructions on the specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting as they are mixed at different strengths. Bleach/water must be mixed daily. Susan said they are mixed at different strengths and the morning staff mixes the bleach/water. Susan said the bleach/water is mixed in gallon jugs and then distributed to spray bottles for both rooms. All of the bottles were labeled. I requested Susan label the gallon jugs with the correct mixture in the event the opening staff or Susan are not present to mix the bleach/water. This would allow other staff to know what the correct ratio is. There is a two-minute dwell time for sanitizing and five-minute dwell time for disinfecting. Susan feels her staff are knowledgeable about the difference between sanitizing and disinfecting.

There is one sink in the infant room and it has been used as both a handwashing sink and a sink that is used for food preparation. This is a health and safety hazard as there is risk for cross contamination. There is not another option at this time. Staff have been instructed to sanitize/disinfect the sink in-between uses. Susan and I talked about if the center stays at the school, a second sink will need to be installed in the infant room. Using the same sink and sanitizing/disinfecting between uses is only a temporary fix.

Playground:
The program uses the school playground. The playground has climbing structures, slides, and swings. The playground safety inspections are completed monthly. The playground uses rubber pellets for fall surfacing. More rubber pellets have been put down since the previous year's inspection.

Transportation:
The program doesn't provide transportation services. Walking field trips are taken.

Administrative records:
Two staff files were read and were complete. Four children's files were read and were complete. All necessary postings

were posted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is an excellent resource for the community. Susan Cruz has her NAEYC membership. The center participates in the IQ4K program at a level 2. The center has a Facebook page where additional information regarding the center's operations and day-to-day activities can be found. The center participates in the summer school reading program. The new rooms are an improvement over the previous rooms. If the center remains in the school after the city buys it, the center will be renovated and better equipped to meet the needs of all the children. The city is supportive of the center. Susan's goals are to either move to Greenfield or renovate the current center. She is hoping to increase enrollment.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: There is only one sink in the infant room. It was being used for both handwashing and food prep which is not sanitary. It puts the center at risk for cross contamination.

109.11(8)c: There is not a current fuel burning inspection on file. The previous one expired 8/31/25.

109.12(4)a: Children between six weeks and three years old were in the infant room. No children over two years old (24 months) can be with infants.

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

I talked with Susan about the areas that need to change if the center is going to remain in the same building. A second sink will need to be installed in the infant room so that one can be used for handwashing and one can be used for food preparation. Staff will sanitize/disinfect the sink in-between uses. Please try to strategize so there is a smaller risk of cross contamination. At this time, bottled water will be used to make bottles, drinking water, and food preparation. Ideally, a small bathroom with a toilet will be installed in the room with the two- and three-year-old children. A handwashing sink in this room would be necessary if a toilet is installed. Even if a toilet is not installed, a handwashing sink in this room would be beneficial. It is not ideal to use the sink in the hallway for handwashing. Since the older children will no longer be eating in the infant room, tile floor in the older room would be beneficial. The center can use an area rug for the time being to prevent the carpet from getting stained. They can replace area rugs as necessary.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 2/1/26 to 2/1/28.

On 2/5/26, the center moved to two different rooms at the school. Their new capacity is 44.

Date: 02/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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**.