Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sugar Babies Academy

Provider No.: 51827

Address: 2550 73rd ST, Urbandale, IA, 50322

County: Polk

Director's Name: Alivia McVicker

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5152700253

E-Mail: lenaearku@yahoo.com
sugarbabiesacademyabc123@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/28/2026

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

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**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 06/23/2025

Comments:

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**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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## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

**Program Population Served:**

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 10 | 16 | 9 | 0 | 35 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

Sugar Babies Academy opened in June 2022. The center has a secured entrance. The center serves children ages two through five years of age using their own learning curriculum that is based off of other learning curriculums. The center is open year-round. Drop in services are available. The center would prefer at least a 24 hour notice to ensure services for drop in care are available. There are a total of three classrooms. The two year old room has a capacity of 10 children. The two/three year old classroom has a capacity of 16 children. The four/five year old classroom has a capacity of nine children. Lenae Arku is the owner of this center. Lenae owns several other centers in this area. Alivia McVicker is the director.

The enter has mandatory postings at the center's entrance. Each classroom has a schedule posted. There was a lesson plan posted in classrooms also.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. The center's current enrollment is 20. Alivia assisted with today's visit. The 2's classroom had six children present. There was one staff working in this class. The 3's classroom had five children in attendance. One staff was working with this class. The 4/5's class had six children, all 4's, present. One staff was working with this class. Children were observed in their classrooms and on the playground. Children were observed during lunch time.

The center has a full kitchen on site. The center participates in CACFP. Menus were reviewed and are in compliance with CACFP. The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Lunch served today was turkey, cheese, wheat crackers, cucumbers, grapes and milk.

The center has a fenced in playground. There is natural shading present. The center completed monthly playground checks.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

The owner holds regular meetings with directors and staff. The center participates in CACFP. The center uses BrightWheel for communicating with parents. The center shares lesson planning with the other Sugar Babies daycare centers.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
There were a few staff files that didn't have Iowa record checks.
These checks have since been completed.

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 didn't take some mandatory trainings in the required time frame.

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required:Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is presentAt least one staff is present in every room where children are resting.If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained.Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained.When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present.For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center’s hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center.Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded.
Children from the ages of two to four years of age were on the playground together. Staff weren't aware that these ages couldn't be in programming space together.
This worker explained ratio for these age groups to Alivia. Ratio was posted in classrooms and this worker reviewed it with Alivia, who spoke with staff.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Majority of the children's files were missing physicals or had expired physicals.
Alivia has gotten updated physicals for children's files.

109.10(3): Infectious disease control: Centers shall establish policies and procedures related to infection disease control and use of universal precautions with handling of bodily fluid. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste.
Some bathrooms where children are diapered had one garbage can, that didn't have a lid.

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.
All three classrooms were not adequately furnished. There were not an adequate amount of toys, not an adequate variety of toys and learning supplies. There were learning centers that didn't have related toys or that were empty. Staff said they do

take some additional toys out during the day, as children dump toys out. The additional supply of toys was very minimal.

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.
There was a fan on the floor in the 4/5's classroom. This is a major health hazard, fans should not be placed anywhere near where children can touch or access.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
There was a very worn, ripped vinyl pad on a diaper changing table. The condition of the pad was not sufficient to be cleaned and sanitized.
Alivia said she was ordering a new changing pad for this table.

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

N/A.

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

This worker advised the owner and director to contact their CCR&R consultant for some visits. This worker recommended that CCR&R plan to assist the owner and director with adequately furnishing rooms, classroom observation and recommend classes for classroom management.
This worker is also recommending the owner and all managers of Sugar Babies visit some established daycare centers to see good classroom arrangements, classrooms management.

Date: 09/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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**.