Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Melinda Darrow

Provider Name: Melinda Darrow

Provider No.: 32765

Address: 1109 S 4th ST, Osage, IA, 50461

E-Mail:

County: Mitchell

Phone Number: 6413303749

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 1/13/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [X] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

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1. Basic Overview

I conducted a compliance visit with Registered Child Development Home Category B provider Melinda Darrow on 1/13/2026. Melinda has been involved in child care for 15 years. She continues using both levels of her ranch style home, with a majority of the time spent in the finished basement. Melinda's basement has two stairways leading to the main floor to meet the requirement of a second exit. There were 8 children in care during the time of my visit, with 12 total children in care at this time. Several of the children are part time. Melinda currently has no HHS-approved assistants or substitutes, though she is considering adding one of her own teenage children as an assistant with her renewal later this spring. Melinda has one dog who had a current vet statement on file. She uses a large, open back yard for her outside play area.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Melinda demonstrated strong multi-tasking skills during our visit. She describes other strengths as maintaining a good schedule with the children in care, and changing up activities or toys to keep things interesting for the children. Melinda offers free play mixed with structured activities that are age appropriate for her given group. These activities include singing, music, dancing, arts, and coloring. The children have regular outside time as weather permits. She also has a large, detached garage structure where kids can run and play if weather is raining or too muddy. Melinda participates in the Food Program to enhance the nutrition of her meals and snacks.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

The provider was found to be in compliance at this time.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/recommendations

The 2026 targeted compliance of the Emergency Preparedness plan was completed. The provider's plan was in compliance and details were consistent with her current operation.

I encourage Melinda to work with Teri Orr from Child Care Resource and Referral with any ongoing compliance or training needs.
Teri can be reached at: (319) 433-7750

Melinda had two children under 12 months of age in care who were awake during the time of our visit. She has pack-n-plays available for napping and we reviewed safe infant sleeping policies.

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HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Earl Crow Date: 1/14/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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