IOWA HHS
Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Kelly K. Garcia
Director

03/21/2025

Catherine Walker
1525 Hillcrest CT
Marion, IA 52302

Dear Child Care Provider:

This letter is in regards to the compliance visit at your Registered Child Development Home C conducted on 03/20/2025. Iowa Code Chapter 237A and 441 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110, describes specific requirements that must be met by a Registered Child Development Home. You are not a participant in the voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System. The following areas were out of compliance at the time of the visit:

441 IAC 110.8(4) **Emergency Plans**

441 IAC 110.8(4) “a” Fire and tornado drills shall be practiced monthly and the provider shall keep documentation evidencing compliance with monthly practice on file for the current year and the previous year.

441 IAC 110.8(4) “b” The provider must have procedures in place for the following:

1. evacuation to safely leave the facility
2. relocation to a common, safe location after the evacuation
3. shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where you are when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue
4. lock down protocol to protect children and providers from an external situation
5. communication plan and plans for reunification with families
6. continuity of operations plans
7. Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs

441 IAC 110.8(5) **Safe Sleep**

441 IAC 110.8(5) "a" The provider shall follow safe sleep practices as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for infants under the age of one.

a. Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.
b. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.
c. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child shall be allowed to sleep in an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat, or items not designed for sleeping.
d. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.
e. No co-sleeping shall be allowed.
f. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.
g. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician authorization with

1305 E. Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0114

statement of medical reason is required.

Findings:

An annual compliance check was completed on 3/20/25 and the following was out of compliance:

441 IAC 110.8(4) “a” Fire and tornado drills shall be practiced monthly and the provider shall keep documentation evidencing compliance with monthly practice on file for the current year and the previous year.

Catherine and Amy did have monthly documentation of fire and tornado drills for this calendar year but had not kept the documentation from last year.

441 IAC 110.8(4) “b” The provider must have procedures in place for the following:
evacuation to safely leave the facility
relocation to a common, safe location after the evacuation
shelter-in-place to take immediate shelter where you are when it is unsafe to leave that location due to the emergent issue
lock down protocol to protect children and providers from an external situation
communication plan and plans for reunification with families
continuity of operations plans
Procedures to address the needs of individual children, including those with functional or access needs

Catherine and Amy did have an Emergency Preparedness Plan but it requires some modifications.

441 IAC 110.8(5) "a" The provider shall follow safe sleep practices as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for infants under the age of one.
Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.
Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.
Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child shall be allowed to sleep in an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat, or items not designed for sleeping.
No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.
No co-sleeping shall be allowed.
Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.
If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

This worker observed 7-month-old twins sleeping in the same pack-n-play.

They also had the type of sleep sack that swaddles their arms ,and these should not be used once a baby shows any signs of rolling over.

Safe sleep was discussed a couple of handouts on safe sleep were provided.

A safety plan was developed in regard to safe sleep and a Referral is being made to CCR&R for them to meet with the providers to further address safe sleep policies.

Suggestions/Recommendations:

A re-check is not needed at this time. Corrections need to be made by 4/10/25 and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check. Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted below.

I encourage you to work with Ashley Cram with Child Care Resource and Referral if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs.

Ashley Cram can be reached at 563-362-8224

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

Corrective Action Required:

Catherine and Amy need to ensure that fire and tornado drills shall be practiced monthly and the provider shall keep documentation evidencing compliance with monthly practice on file for the current year and the previous year.

Catherine and Amy need to update the current Emergency Preparedness Plan and send pictorial verification when completed. Catherine did email pictorial verification of the changes on 3/20/25.

Catherine and Amy need to abide by all Safe Sleep policies and practices. They need to follow the safety plan that was developed on this date.

Addendums:

- Addendum1: An annual compliance check was completed on 3/21/25. At that time Catherine and Amy were determined out of compliance in regard to safe sleep policies. A safety plan was developed, and it stipulated that they needed to abide by all safe sleep policies and practices and meet with CCR&R consultant to review safe sleep policies.

  CCR&R (nurse consultant and support worker) did meet with the providers on 3/28/25 and reviewed the safe sleep checklist.

  On 4/3/25 this worker did an unannounced visit to the home and verified they are now using separate pack-n-plays for the twins.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 4/4/2025 11:52:23 AM

Non-compliance with any of the mandated 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at DHS at 319-429-0749 or christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Christine Weber

Social Worker II

Sheila Aunspach

Social Work Supervisor

Always Remember:

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 877-216-8481

As you plan your future trainings to meet your 24 hours of training requirement, please remember that you can access the approved training by going to http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Care/Professional_Development.html

You may also access training at: https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/trainingregistry/

All providers need to maintain compliance with rules set out in Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110, which includes: 441 IAC 110.5(1): Check with the appropriate authorities to determine how the following local, state, or federal laws apply to you: • Zoning code • Building code • Fire code • Business license • State and federal income tax • Unemployment insurance • Worker's Compensation • Minimum wage and hour requirements • OSHA • Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).