Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Strawberry Patch Daycare Center

Provider No.: 53090

Address: 120 Clark St, Evansdale, IA, 50707

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Stephanie Picha

On-Site Supervisor: Stephanie Picha

Phone Number: 3195024393

E-Mail: strawberrypatchdaycarecenter@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/06/2026

Licensing Period: 03/02/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/03/2025

Comments:

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

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	12	12	20	35	79
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 05/06/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Strawberry Patch Daycare Center in Evansdale. I met with Stephanie Picha, the director. Ms. Picha has previous experience working in a childcare center. There are four staff members employed by the center.

Strawberry Patch Daycare Center was given permission to open on 03/02/26. The program operates out of a free-standing building. It operates Monday through Friday 6:30 am-5:00 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. She plans to only care for school-age children during the summer. There are currently 12 children enrolled.

The center has four classrooms but is currently only operating out of two of the rooms. They have an infant room and a room for children two through four. They will open rooms as their enrollment grows. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, magnets, Play-Doh, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to prepare weekly lesson plans. Ms. Picha states she plans to incorporate the ASQ assessment tool. Activities are based on themes.

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The center uses the Brightwheel app to complete daily sheets in the infant room. Brightwheel is also used to communicate with all the parents in the program.

The center does not currently participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but plans to once they receive their license. They do follow CACFP guidelines. The center serves the children breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Linsey Picha is the cook. A new menu is prepared each week. You must post a menu. Family style is used for the older children. Allergies were posted.

There is a refrigerator and an upright freezer and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

I observed the kitchen to be clean and organized. Most dishes are put through a dishwasher. There are sinks available to use the three-step method if necessary.

In the infant room, the center provides baby food, cereal, and snacks. Parents provide the formula. Bottles and sippy cups are washed in the room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in each room and thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach to disinfect the changing tables and sanitize the food tables. Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant was also on-site. I observed a diaper change in the infant room. All children must have their hands washed with soap and water following diaper changes.

There are handwashing sinks in each classroom and there are bathrooms for the children in each of the classrooms, other than the infant room. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks in the center and diaper changing procedures were posted by all diaper changing tables.

There was a phone in the rooms. You must post emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number near all phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room and lesson plans were available for review in each room.

The program has not conducted fire or tornado drills yet. You are required to practice monthly fire and tornado drills and have documentation available for review during licensing visits and for the fire marshal. There was no documentation for monthly playground inspections being completed. The playgrounds must be inspected each month and documentation must be maintained for review during licensing visits.

A radon test was completed by the center that was previously located in this space in March 2024 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/03/25.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. Family resources are also available in this area. I have provided Ms. Picha an updated poster with my contact information and the new website for the Department of Health and Human Services.

There are three separate fenced-in areas for use by the children at the center. The largest area is for the children four years old and older. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides, bridges, a tunnel and other activities. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing. There are a couple basketball hoops, riding toys, balls, chalk, and picnic tables. There is also a stationary car for the children to play on, a small climbing rock, dramatic play equipment and sensory tables. There is a large shade structure and trees have been planted. Grass is available for play also.

There is a play area off the toddler room for two and three-year-old children. There is no climbing equipment so fall surfacing is not necessary. It is partially a grassy area and partially a concrete area with rocking toys, trucks, soccer nets, sensory table, woodworking center, pushing toys and a picnic table. Shade is provided by trees and the building structure.

There is a playground on the east side of the building that has a grassy area and a concrete area for the children and some age-appropriate toys. There is no climbing equipment so fall surfacing is not necessary. There are riding toys and pushing toys. A tree provides shade.

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Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed four children's files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not provide any dental emergency contact information. None of the files had a form that allowed the center permission to secure emergency care in case of an accident or illness. You must correct this.

I reviewed three staff files. Staff members have 90 days to complete the mandated trainings and six months to get physicals. The staff members did have First Aid and CPR.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Picha has a history of working in a childcare center and has enlisted her family in helping her start this center. She has a lot of support. Staff members had good knowledge of the children's routines. I observed staff members singing with the children as they washed their hands. Staff members were attentive to the children. They interacted with the children at their level. The infant room staff member was nurturing and interacted with each infant. Soothing music was playing in the room. In the other room the staff member was enthusiastic. She kept children occupied during transitions and counted children as they went outside to the playground. She talked with the children about taking turns. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

There are cameras in each of the rooms, the hallways and outside of the center that can record.

Ms. Picha states they provide the children with consistency and a routine.

Ms. Picha states there was a childcare center at this location that closed and she wanted to re-open a center to offer childcare in this community.

Ms. Picha states they have good menus and serve good food that the children enjoy.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.
None of the files had a form that allowed the center permission to secure emergency care in case of an accident or illness. You must correct this.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not provide any dental emergency contact information.

109.11(6): Telephone: Working phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting.List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone.
You must post emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number near all phones.

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

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N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period. Please review the report carefully and make all the necessary corrections.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Picha her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Picha states they have not had any issues with children's behaviors since opening in March. Ms. Picha states she is currently in the classroom, but she would want all staff members to come to her if they are frustrated or having problems with children's behaviors. She would have them take a break and she would step into the room. She will discuss expectations around staff frustrations at their staff meetings.

Date: 05/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.