Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Milford Head Start

Provider No.: 30273

Address: 1525 Three Cross Rd, Milford, IA, 51351

County: Dickinson

Director's Name: Angie Mitchell

On-Site Supervisor: Alyssa Stofferan

Phone Number: 7123391163

E-Mail: jedwards@udmo.com
dhelget@udmo.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/30/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

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**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 05/11/2026

Comments:

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**Report Visit Type:**

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

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

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

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

| HOURS: | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | | 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM | |
| Tuesday | | 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM | |
| Wednesday | | 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM | |
| Thursday | | 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM | |
| Friday | | 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | | | 14 | | 14 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

On 09/30/26, I completed an unannounced visit to the center. I was able to meet with on-site staff member Alyssa Stofferan. Ms. Stofferan holds a BA in Social Work and has several years of experience working with children. Milford Head Start operates under Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. and is housed in a dedicated wing of the Three Cross Church. The program currently has 10 children enrolled, with 9 present during my visit.

The purpose of today's visit was to observe daily operations, assess compliance with licensing requirements, and ensure that health, safety, and educational practices are being met.

Throughout my time in the classroom, I observed warm and engaged interactions between staff and children. Activities included circle time, free play, art, reading, and outdoor time, and staff provided gentle redirection and support as needed to maintain a positive and predictable environment. Daily schedules were posted, and the classroom was organized into clearly defined learning centers such as blocks, dramatic play, reading, science, and art. Materials were accessible, developmentally appropriate, and in good condition. The space was clean, inviting, and thoughtfully arranged to promote exploration and learning. Today's lesson had a joyful theme—children dressed like cowboys and practiced large-motor skills by "galloping like horses." They also explored new pet-themed toys, complete with pretend leashes and activities such as visiting the "vet." The children were genuinely excited and engaged, and staff did an excellent job building on their enthusiasm and supporting meaningful play.

Health and safety practices were appropriate and consistently followed. I observed proper handwashing, effective sanitation of toys and surfaces, and safe food service procedures. The program contracts with Hy-Vee in Spencer to provide breakfast and lunch, and good food storage practices were noted. The center follows CACFP nutritional guidelines, and menus were

clearly posted. The first aid kit was fully stocked for minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are completed and documented each month. The building is fully electric, so no fuel-burning inspection is required. The center also has a radon mitigation system in place.

The outdoor play area includes a large grassy space with adequate shade, providing children with a safe and pleasant environment for outdoor play. In addition, the program has access to a spacious indoor room that can be used when weather prevents outside activity.  Playground equipment is in good repair.

This center is certified at level 3 IQ4K.
When field trips occur, the center utilizes the RIDES transportation program.

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

Level 3 IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) certification indicates that a childcare program is moving beyond basic licensing requirements and is demonstrating strong, intentional practices that support quality in all areas of early childhood care. At Level 3, programs are actively strengthening their curriculum, improving family communication, supporting staff through training and coaching, and ensuring the environment is well-organized, safe, and developmentally supportive.
Reaching Level 3 reflects that the center is committed to ongoing improvement, uses assessment and planning to guide instruction, and is building systems that help children thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. It shows that staff are engaged in professional growth, families are welcomed and informed, and classrooms intentionally support learning through thoughtful materials, routines, and relationships. Overall, Level 3 signals that the program is solidly on the path toward higher-quality standards and is working purposefully to enhance the experiences of children and families.

I observed staff today making learning genuinely fun for the children. They offered encouragement, redirected with ease, and supported smooth transitions from one activity to the next. These consistent and predictable transitions suggest that the center does an excellent job following a daily schedule, helping children feel secure and confident because they clearly know what to expect throughout their day..

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

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

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with Tammi Harrison her oversight of behavior management in the program, specifically how she supports staff in 1) understanding expectations, 2) managing frustrations, and 3) monitoring performance. Tammi shared that staff work well together and feel comfortable asking for help when challenges arise. Expectations are clearly communicated through ongoing conversations, modeling, and regular team discussions. When staff experience frustration, Tammi encourages open communication and problem-solving so they feel supported rather than overwhelmed. She also monitors performance through classroom observations and frequent check-ins, ensuring she can offer guidance, celebrate strengths, and address concerns early. Overall, the collaborative culture among staff helps maintain a positive, consistent environment for children.

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## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year

Date: 10/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.