Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lake Town Charlie Brown

Provider No.: 16105

Address: 7B South 8th St, Clear Lake, IA, 50428

County: Cerro Gordo

Director's Name: Ashley Larsen - executive director

On-Site Supervisor: Ariel Gleason - center director

Phone Number: 6413577277

E-Mail: lakecb@charliebrownpreschools.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/24/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/21/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:30 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 6:30 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	41	23	65	42	171
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Lake Town Charlie Brown center on 08-24-26 where I met with the executive director Ashley Larsen, and center director Ariel Gleason. The center is one of several programs operated under the oversight of the Charlie Brown centers overseen by an executive director and board of directors. Ariel took over the director role in the summer of 2026 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training in early childhood care. The program is located in a free standing building in the commercial area of Clear Lake which has been converted for use as a daycare center. The program provides full range child care programming to infants through school age children, and also provides formal 3 and 4 year old preschool programming. There are approximately 169 children enrolled in the center served by 18 staff.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. Classrooms are determined by age with the infants divided between those that are birth to 12 months, and an adjacent classroom for the 12-24 month old infants. Most of the classroom spaces are located along exterior walls where they have windows, and access to direct exterior exits from the room. There is an interior space that is divided into two programming spaces used for the 3 and 4 year old preschool age children. The classrooms for the formal preschool, 2 year old, and older infants all have restroom spaces accessible directly from the room. The school age children, and the 3 and 4 year old children make use of restrooms off the main access corridor of the preschool space. The 3 and 4 year old preschool programming space is divided by a full wall, and then a half wall that creates the main access corridor where coat cubbies are located further defines the spaces. While it is possible to view the restrooms over the half-wall this is dependent on staff being specifically positioned so that they can observe children. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas. The infant and two year old rooms have changing stations, and additional sinks present to allow for hand washing. The center also has a full kitchen, and attached outdoor playground

spaces. The facilities were observed to be clean with no maintenance issues noted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming & Interactions
A copy of the daily schedule was present in each classroom. The center uses a general centerwide curriculum plan which each classroom then establishes age appropriate activities to implement. Each classroom was observed to be following the posted schedule moving between teacher lead large group learning, self-directed individual play, outdoor play, and meal service. Implementation of the planned curriculum was observed through classroom activities, and posted materials such as craft projects that had been completed. While all of the teachers were actively engaged with the children providing supervision and attending to the children's needs the tone of interactions varied. Some teachers were very positive when speaking to and interacting with children using calm tones, and positive word choices. Others used tones that were harsh and frustrated using more negative and reactive word choices. While none rose to the level of being threatening or intimidating it did show an overall lack of consistency with regard to the implementation of the center philosophical approach to behavior management which is to use positive proactive interactions to reduce the occurence of behavioral issues.

Health & Safety
While I was not able to observe a full diaper change during the visit prior visits have included observations in which staff did follow the required procedures. During the current visit staff were observed at various points at the end of diapering and it was noted that children's hands were washed, and staff did clean changing stations. Chemical cleaners, medications, personal belongings were stored where they were not accessible to children. The toys and materials present in classrooms were generally appropriate to the ages of the children in the room however there were toys with small parts such as the wheels on cars that could easily break off which would be a choking hazard in the 2 year old classroom. One difference that was noted with that classroom and the older infants was that staff in the older infant room kept those items in storage and then brought them out for specific supervised play activities. Children under 4 years of age are prone to mouthing toys and items. This is especially true for children under 3 years of age where those items need to be removed. Good safe sleep practices were observed for infants under 1 year of age. Staff also ensured good feeding positioning for children including infants when providing meals. Good handwashing practices were observed for both staff and children.

Nutrition
Good food handling and service practices were observed on the day of my visit. Lunch was being prepared and served during the visit. The meal serviced was consistent with the posted menu. The meal did include carrots which served raw for older age children, but cooked and cut for younger age children. Meals were pre-portioned for children, and supervision was provided at the tables. The kitchen and storage pantry were observed to be clean with no evidence of insect or rodent infestation. Both refrigerated and dry pantry items were properly stored in sealed and covered containers that were labeled in the kitchen and dry pantry area, but were not properly stored in classrooms. Several classrooms were observed to have food items that were in open or rolled bags and packaging. All food items whether stored in the kitchen or classrooms, and whether intended for child consumption or not must be stored in accordance with CACFP requirements.

Playground
The center has a porch with a railing that is used for an outdoor space for the infants directly accessible from the older infant room. The other children make use of a more traditional playground space that is fully enclosed and divided into three areas by fencing. The fencing was observed to be in good repair for each area. The three areas are established for age groups with toddler, preschool, and school age spaces. Each has various equipment including climbing structures, swings, and other materials such as balls, sand play, and riding toys. The equipment was observed to be good repair. Each space makes use of different fall surfacing with turf over sand in the toddler space, rubber mulch in the preschool space, and woodchips in the school age space. The loose fill materials of the rubber mulch has been displaced, and the wood chips have compacted and composted such that both need to be supplemented to ensure a good depth of material.

Administration
All required notices were present for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and the License Certificate. Other required postings for evacuation, emergency contacts, hand washing, diapering notices, schedule, curriculum, and disease exposure were also present. Staff and child files were reviewed and each was found to contain all required documentation. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center last conducted Radon Testing earlier in 2025 and all results were below the 4.0 cutoff limit and the center does not have a mitigation system. The center parent handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.
-- Items and toys with parts that can break off that would be less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- Food items maintained in classrooms were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal had been broken. All food whether intended for child consumption or not must be properly stored to reduce the risk of spoilage, and being an attractant to insects and rodents.

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

The issues identified during the visit were reviewed with Ashley who stated she would share them with Ariel to ensure that staff reviewed the items in the classrooms for correction.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 08/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.