Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Delwood Child Care Program

Provider No.: 46382

Address: 311 Delmare Ave, Delmar, IA, 52037

County: Clinton

Director's Name: Ruth Fuegen

On-Site Supervisor: none

Phone Number: 5636744164

E-Mail: rfuegen@delwood.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 10/05/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/07/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		7:00 AM to 5:30 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			23		23
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 10/5/26. The center director is Ruth Fuegen. Ruth is qualified with over 40 years of child care experience and having been the director of this program since 2020. Ruth was present on the day of the visit. Ruth is also the lead staff in the three year old preschool/child care room. The center uses identified licensed space within the Delwood Elementary School building. The program operates on school days only and provides preschool for three year old children and child care for preschool age children before and after preschool/prek. The center no longer licenses child care for school age children as that is provided through a grant program that is exempt from licensing. The school does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program and offers full day Department of Education programming for five year old children not yet enrolled in kindergarten. The center director states the program uses the Discovery Stations curriculum. The center reports current enrollment of 33 children at the time of the visit.

At the time of this visit, the licensed space includes one preschool/child care rooms (Ms. Ruth's room, "green room", right side room, used for three year old preschool and preschool/prek child care). This room is nicely stocked and organized with accessible and age appropriate materials to meet program needs. The room includes a hand washing sink within the program room and an adjacent restroom area (two toilets and one hand washing sink). The preschool age children can use the school gym for indoor large motor activities if available during the school day. The children are able to attend the school library and music class weekly. The center director notes that the DHS licensed staff attend these programs with the children and ratio is maintained. Required postings and child and staff files were reviewed. The licensing notebook including fire and tornado drills, first aid supplies, playground checklist were reviewed. All program space was observed. Staff and child interactions, food service, and hand washing practices and procedures were observed. Health and safety practices were also reviewed including medication management, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting procedures, excluding ill children/staff, incident reports, and first aid kits.

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Nutritional and food safety practices were observed. The center serves breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and a later afternoon snack. The center does not participate in the CACFP but does participate in the school lunch program. It is noted that the meals and snacks that are served in the cafeteria when all children (preschool and school age) are co-mingled are allowed to meet school lunch program requirements rather than CACFP requirements. Currently, the center director states that children are combined like this for breakfast and lunch. There is an extra charge for breakfast and lunch. Some children do bring their lunch from home. The center is reminded that lunches from home must be monitored and supplemented to meet CACFP guidelines. Meals and snacks are prepared by the school kitchen which is licensed by IDPH, and that license is current. Parents are able to donate items for snack if they choose to do so.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center is very well managed, and the staff work well together. This center is providing a needed service to the families of this community. The school is supportive to the licensed preschool/child care program. The program room and materials continue to be well supplied, organized, and maintained. The room provides ample amount of space and is bright with windows. The children have regular access to the school gym and library. Staff were once again observed to be highly engaged with the children in program activities and provide careful supervision. Child and staff files and other licensing information were again found to be highly organized. The school building itself continues to be very clean and well maintained.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

N/A

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with (director) their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The center director provided the following responses:
1.) Show patience, use a calming, model
2.) Monitor themselves and others for impatience, raised voices- Pause and breathe, know when to step away.
3.) Observation

This report processes the administrative change to reflect the change in the licensed space. The center uses the following room with the following capacity:
Green room (Ms. Ruth, room on the right, closest to door that leads to the main school building) = 23 children

The center will continue with a full license. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 10/28/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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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**.