Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center-Villisca

Provider No.: 51174

Address: 219 Central Ave, Villisca, IA, 50864

County: Montgomery

Director's Name: Amber Mullen

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7128265982

E-Mail: amullen@southwestvalley.org
jlyddon@southwestvalley.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/13/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2024 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/21/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	10	21	20	59
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center - Villisca on 11/13/25. The center is located in the Enarson Elementary School. The center opened on 9/21/20. Child care services are offered to infant age children to school age children, Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Amber Mullen became the director on January 3, 2023. There are 49 children enrolled. I met with Amber Mullen during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
There are two programming rooms. One room is for infants to two-year-olds and the second room is for children two years and older. The infant age children must be free from intrusion of the older children. Amber is looking at reconfiguring the infant room by dividing it for six weeks to 18 months on one side of the room and 18 months to three years old on the other side. Two of the older children came to the infant room for lunch. They initially washed their hands and then the boys sat at the table. Amber sprayed the table while the boys were sitting at the table although she made them scoot back. Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products should not be used in close proximity to children. Adequate ventilation should be maintained during any cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting procedure to prevent children, caregivers, and teachers from inhaling potentially toxic fumes. The older boys were separated from the infants by a divider. The daily sheets looked good. The center uses the Playground App for communication with parents. The children in the older program room were initially eating lunch in the lunch room and then were taking a nap. In the infant room on the side with the older kids, there was a climbing structure that did not have fall surfacing. Please talk to your child care nurse consultant about fall surfacing. The climbing equipment should be removed until there is fall surfacing. All climbing structures over 18” need fall surfacing. The rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Equipment and toys are rotated frequently. The center uses Creative Curriculum and they use the lesson plans/activities that Creative Curriculum provides.

Nutrition:
The middle school provides breakfast and lunch and the center provides snacks. The center is on the federal food program. Menus were posted. Appropriate food storage was observed. Everything is individually wrapped.

Health and safety:
Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. Radon testing was completed in December 2023 and the test scores are under a 4.0 pCi/L. Since you are in a school the Department of Education is responsible for radon testing and licensing is no longer required to review your radon testing. The center had a fuel burning inspection and everything was in good working order. The inspection expires on 4/30/26. The carbon monoxide detector is built into the fire alarm system. Oxivir Tb is used for sanitizing and disinfecting. The center uses the 3-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Toys are sanitized daily. The center deep cleans monthly. The center had emergency diagrams and phone numbers, diaper changing instructions, and handwashing procedures posted. They have first aid kits in the rooms.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Playground:
The center uses the school playground. Monthly playground safety inspections were completed. There is a small playground for the younger children. There is a climbing structure that needs fall surfacing. Please talk to the child care nurse consultant. There was also a water table and other toys on the small playground.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administration:
Child files were read and were in excellent order. Two staff files were read and were in excellent order. When the director is gone an on-site supervisor or knowledgeable staff member must be in charge. The center participates in IQ4K and is level 1.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Amber is very enthusiastic and proud of the program. She is organized and was very helpful during my licensing visit. The center is an excellent resource for the Villisca community. Staff are positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The center participates in IQ4K level 1. The center has received donations and grants for flooring, new cubbies, a gate, new toys, etc. Do not accept donations of used equipment for the infant room as items may be on the recall list or may have been broken, etc.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(14)a: Amber sprayed the table while the two children were close proximity to the table. Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products should not be used in close proximity to children. Adequate ventilation should be maintained during any cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting procedure to prevent children, caregivers, and teachers from inhaling potentially toxic fumes.

109.11(2)a: There were indoor and outdoor climbing structures that appear to need fall surfacing. Any climbing structure over 18" needs fall surfacing.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center - Villisca for 9-1-2024 to 9-1-2026.

I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to discuss fall surfacing for the climbing structures.

Administrative Change
Southwest Valley Early Childhood Center Villisca added another room for school age children. This will increase their total capacity to 59.

Date: 11/21/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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**.