Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Jessica Dahlstrom

Provider Name: Jessica Dahlstrom

Provider No.: 50012

Address: 4541 Mission AVE, Marion, IA, 52302

E-Mail:

County: Linn

Phone Number: 3198992175

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 4/1/2026

Program Type:

- [X] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

1. Basic Overview

Jessica became a Registered provider in 2019, and she shared that she was a non-Registered provider for a year before that. She did previously participate in the prior quality rating system and was rated level 1. She does not currently participate in the IQ4K quality rating system. She does participate in the Food Program. Jessica shared that she is primarily cares for children ages infant through kindergarten, but it open to caring for school-aged children as well. Since last year's annual inspection, Jessica has begun to use the lower level of her home for childcare in addition to the main level. Jessica does have a fenced in yard. Jessica does have a large dog and 2 cats. She shared that the dog does interact with the children at times, but the cats typically stay away from the children. Jessica's husband (Steve) is an approved substitute and assistant. Jessica did share that he is almost always present during childcare hours.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Jessica had two young children in care when this worker arrived, and one additional child arrived while I was present. This worker did observe Jessica feed the baby a bottle while the other two children were in a large pack-n-play like play structure. There were toys in that area for the child to play with.

Jessica does have a variety of toys for the children including items for small motor skills and items for large motor skills. She described that she utilizes circle time for the children with flashcards and working on letters as well as yoga and playing touch tag along with free play.

Jessica did have all of her documentation organized into one binder.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.8 : Conditions in the home shall be safe, sanitary, and free from hazards.
On the main level of the home in the living room area, this worker did observe food items on the floor and other small items. The floor definitely needed to be swept, and this was noted at last year's annual visit as well. Additionally, upon going downstairs to where Jessica now primarily provides childcare, a lot of toys were strewn around the floor and there were various small items and food crumbs as well. The three children that were in care on this date were all under the age of 2 and these items did present a potential safety hazard. This worker advised Jessica that I remembered this as a concern last year also and advised that she take steps to clean up the floor. It is not uncommon to see toys on the floor at a childcare home, but this was the first they were going down for the day, and the toys were just thrown around, along with a generally unkept floor.
*Jessica needs to sweep both the floor on the main level and the lower level and pick up toys that are small and might be a choking hazard to the small children. She needs to send pictorial verification of this to HHS.

110.8 (1) d : Safety barriers are at stairways and doors as needed.
Jessica had a gate between the main floor living room and kitchen but it was broken and not secured in place.
*Jessica needs to fix (resecure) the gate between the living room and kitchen and send pictorial verification to HHS.

110.8(1)f. A safety barrier surrounds any heating stove or heating element, in order to prevent burns.
Jessica did have a gas fireplace in the lower level. This worker could feel the heat coming off it and there was an area that was hot to the touch.
*Jessica needs to put some sort of barrier around the fireplace ASAP so the heating element is not accessible to the children. She needs to send pictorial verification to HHS.

110.8(2) Outdoor space
a. Is kept free from litter, rubbish, and flammable materials.
Jessica had a large pile of tree branches and limbs in the backyard play area. She shared that came down recently in a storm and had not yet moved them. She planned to move them this weekend. She did share that she had the kids outside earlier in the week and just tried to keep them away from that area, but it was accessible to the children.
*Jessica needs to get rid of the large pile of tree branches and limbs in the back yard play space and send pictorial verification to HHS.

110.8 (3) a : All medicines and poisonous, toxic, or otherwise unsafe materials are secured from access by a child.
Jessica did have chemicals/cleaners under the kitchen sink and although she does have a safe latch on the cabinet it was not secured.
*Jessica needs to ensure that all toxic items are secured from access by a child at all times. She did latch the cabinet while this worker was present.

110.8(4)a. Fire and tornado drills are practiced monthly and documentation kept on file for the current year and previous year.
Jessica did not have any documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for this calendar year. (She did have a form to document monthly testing of smoke detectors but not the fire and tornado drills. She did have the documentation from last year.
*Jessica needs to locate her 2026 documentation of her monthly practice of fire and tornado drills and ensure she continues to practice those monthly and document those accordingly.

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

A re-check is not needed at this time. The above corrections should be made within 3 weeks (by 4/22/26) and will be reviewed at the next annual compliance check.
Please send pictorial verification of the items where specifically noted above to christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov or text to 319-429-0749.

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Jessica shared that she does not transport the childcare children.
Jessica shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool but will use a splash pad for other water play.
We did discuss safe sleep policies.
We did discuss the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a Category A provider.
We did talk about the use of Steve as an assistant and substitute. Jessica did share typically Steve is the one to take her kids to school while she remains home with the childcare children. We did discuss her use of Steven as a substitute and the limitations to 25 hours per month and an additional 2 weeks in the summer. She did have documentation of him acting as a substitute on prior dates which is required and we noted that if she leaves him when she takes kids to school, she has to document that time with him acting as a substitute as well.

Jessica has made some changes to her childcare space since last year's annual compliance visit, and she now primarily uses the lower level of the home for childcare. She is Category A and thus is not required at that level to have a secondary exit. She does have an egress window in a bedroom on that level but does not currently have the permanent steps she would need leading to the outside. She did have some questions about what might be needed if she chose to become a Category B or C provider with Steve as a co-provider. We did discuss the regulations involved including the secondary exit and the number of children that would allow her.

As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. Jessica was in compliance with her EPP. She did recently update it this year.
She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

Recommendations:
Jessica did have note in her policies/handbook that an exemption of immunizations is allowed for the children in place of the immunization record. This is a new expectation for providers effective 7/1/25 so we did discuss this. If she chooses to not accept the exemption, she needs to note that as well.

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: By 4/17/26 Jessica had sent pictorial verification of compliance to this worker for the items requested.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 4/22/2026

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 4/2/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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 I encourage you to work with Janey Schmitt with Child Care Resource and Referral if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs. Janey Schmitt can be reached at 563-286-0694