Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Young-Uns Preschool & Child Care Center

Provider No.: 19238

Address: 3375 Kennedy Circle, Dubuque, IA, 52002

County: Dubuque

Director's Name: Deb McDonnell/Barb Weber

On-Site Supervisor: Samantha McDonnell

Phone Number: 5635840845

E-Mail: barbweber25@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/22/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/01/2024

Comments: Fire inspection approving new building 1/24/25.

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	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 5:30 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	44	26	171	112	353
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 4/22/26. Present were the co-owners/co-directors of the center, Debra McDonnell and Barbara Weber along with other staff. Both Debra and Barbara are NAC certified through 4/30/27. Debra has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, and Barbara has an bachelor's degree in elementary education. Both have almost 30 years of experience. The center is for profit. The building was built as a child care center and opened in May 2007 to combine two locations previously owned by the family. It is noted that the center director, Deb, accompanied the licensing consultant throughout most of the visit. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool program. The center director states the center uses a center created theme based curriculum based on the CDC milestones. The center reports enrollment of 345 children at the time of the visit.

The main center building consists of a main and lower level with several program rooms located on each floor. The center also occupies a portion of a separate building (“Hillcrest building”) that is on property adjacent to the main center property and has obtained additional space in that building to add six rooms since the last licensing visit. The main center building provides care for children age infant through school age. The Hillcrest building provides care for children age four through school age.

Program rooms and materials are generally well maintained and organized. Rooms are generally abundantly stocked with age appropriate furniture and accessible materials to support program needs. All program space was observed. All program rooms have restroom areas adjacent to the room. Most of the rooms also include hand washing sink(s) within the program rooms. The rooms where the majority of diapering occurs also have diaper station(s) and hand washing sinks within the program room.

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The center serves morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack all prepared in the kitchen on site by the kitchen staff. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The kitchen area continues to be clean and and highly organized. The lead cook staff are ServSafe certified.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The owners/directors are experienced in child care and have an obvious interest in the continued success of the center. The center has achieved level three IQ4K rating. The staff were once again observed to be highly engaged with the children in activities throughout the center. The center is bright and nicely decorated throughout with displays of the children's projects. The center has a large supply of books. Program rooms include many postings at child level throughout the center. Using a grant they were awarded, the center continues to build their own "lending library" for staff to borrow materials to support their program activities. The center participates in the local public library program where they receive book boxes. Daily activities are communicated to all parents except those of school age children through the online application the center uses. The center director states this center continues to participate in the Program Wide PBIS program and receives grant money associated with their participation in this activity. The center director states they have designated a couple of staff to be "behavior specialists", and these staff provide additional support to the other staff in the building as needed. The center director states the center is planning new shade structures for all three outdoor play areas. Licensing documentation and staff and child files continue to be highly organized.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed did not have evidence of the Iowa record check being completed. This was completed during the visit. The center is reminded that this record check is required to be completed prior to the staff's involvement with child care. The center is also reminded that Iowa record checks shall be completed every two years and national record checks are to be completed every four years as required.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
1. _3_ child files reviewed did not have a current physical/statement of health.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
1. Several rooms were missing a current schedule and/or lesson/activity plan posting.

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) As a center we utilize Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), this gives us the ability to maintain and help staff understand our center-wide expectations. Our staff is trained in PBIS within the first 3 years of employment. We utilize the BIR reports to help guide staff on how to manage behaviors in the classrooms. Using the PIDS system we are able to

analyze and understand the patterns happening with an individual child or classroom. Then as a team we are able to help manage the behaviors that are present. Staff and directors seek out additional training to align with any problem behaviors that may arise. With our Center-wide PBIS program, we have been able to assign a dedicated staff member who provides guidance for staff members and children, to help with behavior management.
2) Staff are reminded to practice mindfulness and ask for assistance. We are available to help them de-escalate from frustrations in the classroom. The PBIS coach is available to provide breaks for staff that need help to de-escalate. She also provides ideas on how to help prevent the frustration. Giving teachers opportunities to express frustrations, helps staff and directors come up with solutions and ideas to help prevent staff from becoming escalated.
3) The PBIS coach does check ins with the staff members to address any frustrations or escalations. Skills and expectations are revisited often to ensure everyone understands.
The PBIS leadership team leads many of the staff meetings so these skills and expectations are addressed during these times.

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. Ensure all dishes are completely air dried before stacking and putting away.
2. Ensure chemicals and plastic bags are not accessible in restroom areas where children are able to reach the shelving.
3. Closely monitor temperature of polar bear room freezer. Freezer shall maintain temperature of 0F or below for safe food storage (breast milk found stored here).
4. Emergency plan posting is needed at door from dolphin to bumblebee room..

The center will continue with a full license. This report does not require a written response, however, please address the violations and concerns noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. Thank you.

Date: 05/29/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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**.