Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Oak Academy

Provider No.: 27709

Address: 1401 Center ST, Des Moines, IA, 50314

County: Polk

Director's Name: Bethany Davis

On-Site Supervisor: Vicki Griffin

Phone Number: 5152447702

E-Mail: BDavis@oakridgeneighborhood.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/10/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/24/2025

Comments: Fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by Lt. Eric Jacobson, Fire Inspector, Des Moines Fire Dept.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] 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
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	16	134		166
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual licensing visit was conducted 9/10/26. Director, Bethany Davis, was present for this visit.

Oak Academy has been in operation since 1985. The center is located in the Oakridge Community Center. The center is managed by Oakridge Neighborhood Services. A second building is located at 979 Oakridge Drive. There is a secured entrance into the childcare buildings.

Bethany Davis is the director, taking on this role after being the on-site supervisor. Bethany has been with this center since 2001 and has a Masters degree in Education Leadership and a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. Vicki Griffin was added as an assistant director/on-site supervisor in 2018. Vicki has been with the center for several years and meets qualifications to be the on-site supervisor. Vicki has taken on a strong administrative role and is very organized.

This center uses Creative Curriculum and the Pro-Care/Playground application to communicate with parents. The center has good variety of age/developmentally appropriate learning centers/activities/toys. The children were content, as this visit occurred when the children were finishing up lunch and transitioning to a rest period.

There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and served family-style in the rooms by staff; where staff remain with the children for snacks and lunch. The center offers breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. This center is enrolled in CACFP (The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers).

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Playground: The outdoor play areas are divided by ages; and enclosed with chain link fencing. There are trees with natural shade and shade.

Transportation and field trips: Not offered at this time.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center partners with child partner program and the Des Moines Public schools.

The center is a part of United Way and receives support from United Way with a behavioral interventionist and mental health counselor; rehabilitation and screenings with Central Rehab LTD that provides services on site; and this will transition to early access type services.

Oak Academy has attained IQ4K Level 4 (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on).

Oak Academy continues to participate in TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

The center also participates in WAGE$ (Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual's level of formal education and commitment to their program).

The center does training for staff regularly and reaches out to CCR&R and the center's Child Care Nurse Consultant when needed.

The center has a secure entrance.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

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.

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

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-Staff file reviewed was missing or needed an updated SING (Iowa Check)
-The director completed while the visit took place

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

-A child file reviewed was missing emergency dentist contact information
-The center will obtain the information from the family and place in the child's file

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.
-A child file reviewed contained an expired physical exam report
-The center will have the family obtain the exam and provide the exam report for the child's file.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full two-year license is recommended.

Radon testing is completed by the Oakridge Neighborhood Services and was last tested 12/29/22, with all readings below 4.0.

The center participates in the food program and their menus reflect they are following the food program guidelines.

This center is has all-electric heating. There are carbon monoxide detectors in the classrooms per the director.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The director indicated the center has a grant-funded behavioral specialist that will be transitioning more toward early access type services. This center utilizes CCRR and CCNC, along with early access for behavioral management techniques.

Date: 09/11/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.