Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Growing Patch Summer Camp

Provider No.: 51812

Address: 202 W Main ST, Urbana, IA, 52345

County: Benton

Director's Name: Jennifer Liedtke

On-Site Supervisor: Shayla Slager

Phone Number: 3199817905

E-Mail: growingpatch2017@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/09/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/18/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [X] 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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General				50	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Growing Patch learning programs have been in operation since 2017 and currently operate multiple licensed childcare programs in Linn County. Specifically, this license visit and report pertain to Growing Patch Summer Camp (GPSC) which commenced operations on 5/31/2022. GPSC located inside Center Point-Urbana Intermediate School which is part of the Center Point-Urbana (CPU) Community School District. This program operates summer only, M-F 6:30am to 5:30pm and serves school-age children. During 2026, GPSC operates for 11 weeks. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 31 on 7/9/2026.

Multi-site original founding owner and director is Jennifer Liedtke. Ms. Liedtke has a BS degree in secondary education, has a current State of Iowa teaching license, has experience working with children and participates in professional development. On-site supervisor Shayla Slager has experience working with children and participates in professional development.

On 7/9/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in the school cafeteria. The program has some access to the school gymnasium, band room and outdoor school playground. There are restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. Meals are prepared on-site in the school kitchen by GPSC staff which is inspected by the health department. Summer 2026 themes include carnival, insects, yard games, 4th of July, Disney, ocean and underwater, space week, camping, and agriculture. On 7/9/2026, activities observed included various play experiences (e.g. making alien slime) and outdoor large gross motor play. Curriculum on the day of the monitoring visit was observed to allow for a variety of play experiences that piqued child interest as well as encouraged social emotional growth, innovation and child choice. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions were observed to go smoothly and included clean-up procedures, breakfast rituals and restroom/drink breaks. On 7/9/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the

children providing encouragement and positive redirection when needed. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of GP programs is "…to provide a safe, developmentally appropriate environment for infants, toddlers, preschool and school-aged children….focus is to provide a stimulating early care and educational experience which promotes each child's social/emotional, physical, and cognitive development…our goal is to support each child's desire to be lifelong learners."

Growing Patch learning programs have a private social media page for employees and families. In early 2025, GPWRA was recognized for their partnership with a local school district to provide full day-care: https://governor.iowa.gov/pressrelease/2025-02-07/gov-reynolds-introduces-bill-promote-preschool-child-care-partnerships-provide-full-day-care.

Multi-site owner Ms. Liedtke is a seasoned local entrepreneur celebrating her 9th year of business in March 2026. The program's management team (e.g. Ms. Liedtke, site specific directors, OSSs) is invested in the community and continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Liedtke expressed much gratitude towards having a reliable, seasoned team of staff who enjoy working with children. The Growing Patch locations continue to collaborate with one another on the sharing of materials, resources, curriculum, ideas/planning, and professional growth training.

On the day of this monitoring visit, GPSC was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining a family-staff-program information area, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Curriculum is described as invigorating and teacher-inspired with a balance of physical, creative, and fun-filled activities in a relaxing and nurturing environment. Daily schedule supports small group work, outdoor learning, and journaling/literacy. Curriculum also incorporates off-site field trip experiences (e.g. Frost Park, splash pads, Collins Theater, bowling, local baseball game, picnics in the park), on-site guest speaker events (e.g. CPU Theater Camp, master gardeners, recycling personnel), enrichment activities (e.g. gardening, math, literacy, crafts), and themed days. Ms. Liedtke discussed the positive family feedback the program continues their summer camp.

As of 7/9/2026, GPSC continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily child contact, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff and management were able to verbalize how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. On 7/9/2026, management and staff discussed how they have continued supports from the school district including from school administrative, school food service personnel, the school board and the school custodians as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

Each Growing Patch location, including GPSC, has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025, 2026), technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and 2026 nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Continue to ensure all immunization certificates are signed and dated.

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Continue to collaborate with the school district regarding maintenance of the outdoor playground (e.g. adequate cushion surface depth, chipping/rusting equipment, power washing of outdoor equipment). If any area of the outdoor playground becomes unsatisfactory, the childcare shall refrain from accessing those areas until remedies are made.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with management oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Management discussed having a seasoned staff who is also a behavior specialist that travels among their locations helping build relationships with the children as well as provide assistance to staff and model redirection strategies. Ms. Liedtke talked about how the first couple weeks can be challenging transition as children transition from the school-year to their summer camp and they try to be proactive from the start including providing consistent routines and structure. Ms. Liedtke acknowledged safety is a priority and if a child is having behaviors the child is not allowed to attend some or all field trips. Ms. Liedtek discussed how management persons are present in the center talking with staff, scheduling extra staff whenever possible, ensuring staff have breaks, encouraging staff to use good voice tones, establishing child behavior plans, communicating with families and exercising required polices for enrollment and discharge of children as needed.

The program's license remains in full force. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 08/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.