Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Karen Klouse

Provider Name: Karen Klouse

Provider No.: 22039

Address: 1421 9th ST SE, Mason City, IA, 50401

E-Mail:

County: Cerro Gordo

Phone Number: 6414300767

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 3/30/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [X] 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

I conducted a compliance visit with Registered Child Development Home Category B provider Karen Klouse on 3/30/2026. Karen has been involved with child care for 32 years, multiple children in her care are grandchildren. She continues using the main floor only of her 2 story home. Karen has a series of gates she can use to divide play space or room accessibility for the children. The home is hard used and we reviewed setting up a better schedule for regular cleaning of the flooring surfaces. Karen has 4 dogs and one cat, all had current vet statements on file. She had 4 children in care during the time of our visit, and currently has a total of 5 children that regularly attend. Karen is due for her registration renewal effective 10/31/2026.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Karen has 32 years of experience in the child care industry. She has improved her file maintenance over the years, and was current with her paperwork. Karen described her strengths as patience and communication with the children and parents. Her curriculum consists mostly of free play mixed with some basic activities using the alphabet, numbers, coloring and music. Karen has been keeping her numbers relatively low, allowing time for attention to the children. She participates in the Food Program to enhance the nutrition of her snacks and meals.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

110.8 : Conditions in the home shall be safe, sanitary, and free from hazards.
- Karen needs to develop a better and more regular cleaning routine for the home, especially the floors. The carpeted floors were overdue for a good vacuuming/potential carpet cleaning, and the hard surface kitchen floor needed sweeping and mopping.

110.8 (1) c : Combustible materials are kept away from furnaces, stoves, gas dryers, or water heaters by a minimum of three feet.
- Karen needs to create more space around her water heater in the basement. Various storage items were stacked right up next to the appliance.

110.8 (2) a : A safe outdoor play area is maintained in good condition throughout the year.
- Karen describes using her back deck as part of her outdoor play area. There were parts and pieces from an uninstalled awning spread over the porch, along with other household products that left much of the play space inaccessible. These need to be cleared from the deck and away from toys the children use in the deck.

The above corrections need to be in place by 5/29/2026 and will be reviewed during her next visit.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/recommendations

The 2026 targeted compliance for the Emergency Preparedness Plan was conducted. Karen was in compliance with a plan consistent with her current operation.

I encourage Karen to work with Kathy Lloyd from Child Care Resource and Referral with any ongoing compliance or training needs.
Kathy can be reached at: (319) 231-9405

Karen had one infant under 12 months of age during our visit and reported that it was his very first day. (Was awake during my visit.) We had a lengthy review of safe infant sleeping policies.

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HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Earl Crow Date: 3/31/2026

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