Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: University of Dubuque Child Care Center

Provider No.: 18854

Address: 1001 McCormick St, Dubuque, IA, 52001

County: Dubuque

Director's Name: Tammy Pierro

On-Site Supervisor: Teresa Fischer

Phone Number: 5635857461

E-Mail: tpierro@dbq.edu

HHS Visit Date: 01/20/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 01/07/2026

Comments:

**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 9:00 PM | | |
| Tuesday | 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM | | |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM | | |
| Thursday | 6:30 AM to 9:00 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 | 5 | 9 | 46 | | 60 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An unannounced licensing was completed at this center on 1/20/26. The center director, Tammy Pierro, was present along with other staff. Tammy is highly qualified with a degree in elementary education and many years of center director experience. Tammy is also current with her NAC credential. The center is owned and operated by the University of Dubuque and is located on campus in a building designed specifically for the center. The center typically provides care for children age six weeks to five years. Typical operation is from 6:30am to 5:30pm, however, evening care is offered from 5:45pm to 9:00pm for the University of Dubuque Life Program, Monday through Thursday, depending on need. The university pays for this child care as part of that program. These children do not attend the center until, at the earliest, 5:45pm. There may also be school age children who attend in the evenings for this program. The center director states that school age children do not otherwise attend this center. This center participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center director states the program uses the Creative Curriculum.

The center includes the following program rooms on the main floor of the building: Infant Room/nursery (zero to approximately 12 months), four year old preschool room (four and five year old children), and transition Room (approximately 8 months through 23 months). Program rooms are generally adequately supplied with materials to meet program needs. There is an adjacent restroom area in a short hallway that is shared by the nursery room and the prek room. The restroom area includes two toilets and two sinks. Diaper stations and hand washing sinks are located in the nursery and transition rooms.

The lower level is one large room that is separated by a half wall and now a plexiglass barrier for the two (18 months through two year old children) and three year old (three to four year old children) areas. Both areas were arranged with the typical learning/interest centers. The three year old area is larger and includes plenty of accessible materials to support

program needs. The two year old area is smaller and also includes plenty of accessible materials to support program activities. The restroom area is adjacent to the twos area with a diaper station, two separated toilet stalls, and two hand washing sinks. Children from the three year old room do have to travel to this area to use the restroom and to wash hands. Discussion again occurred regarding the travel required here and that ratio and direct supervision of restroom and hand washing activities are maintained. The director states that the center typically continues to staff the lower level such that these requirements can be maintained, and staff state that on the occasion that the staff in the two year old room have to help supervise a three year old child, communication between staff occurs, direct supervision is provided, and ratio is not compromised.

The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, afternoon snack, and dinner. The center does participate in the CACFP. Lunch and dinner are prepared at the University of Dubuque licensed kitchen and are brought over to the center with a staff assigned to do the final meal prep in the center's small kitchenette area to get items out to the program rooms. The kitchenette area appears clean and organized.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

The center director has many years of experience managing a center, and this center continues to be very well managed. The center continues at three star IQ4K rating through 10/31/26. The building is generally clean and well maintained. The rooms are bright with windows (on both levels) and decorated in child friendly themes including with the children's crafts and projects posted. The center has a good supply of books organized by topic and other extra materials organized in the storage area. The center receives excellent support being owned and operated by the University of Dubuque. The staff were again observed to be engaged with the children in all program rooms, and the staff continue to appear to work well together. Many of the staff have been with the center for a number of years. The center director reports that several staff have degrees in early childhood education. The center participates in the WAGES program for staff. Licensing documentation and staff and child files continue to be highly organized, and the center director has an excellent system for tracking staff and child files.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

N/A

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

N/A

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

The center is reminded of the rules regarding combining different age groupings of children and what is allowed and when. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children and three year old children may not be combined with six year old 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 shall ensure compliance.

The center will continue with a full license. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 02/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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**.