Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: CFI Child Development Center

Provider No.: 27702

Address: 801 Forest Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50314

County: Polk

Director's Name: Sara Rushing

On-Site Supervisor: Stephanie Smith, Anna Sanchez-Rincon, Madison Suing

Phone Number: 5152822193

E-Mail: sarar@cfiowa.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/24/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/28/2025

Comments: Des Moines Fire Marshal.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: COA

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	16	16	70	56	158
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 2/24/26. The new director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Children and Families of Iowa - Child Development Center (CFI - CDC) is located in Des Moines and overseen by a CFI Board of Directors. The center primarily serves children and families in crisis in and around the surrounding neighborhood. Children range from infants to 10 years in age. The center is COA accredited and utilizes the Creative Learning Curriculum and Frog Street Curriculum. There are a total of nine classrooms and some of these classrooms are divided into two sections serving different groups of children. The two therapy classrooms are not in use at this time. Total child enrollment at this time is 63 children.

Sara Rushing is the new director of this program as of 11/2026. Sara has a BA degree as well as past experience working in child care. Sara was previously an on-site supervisor at this program before being promoted to director. Stephanie Smith, Anna Sanchez - Rincon, and Madison Suing are the on-site supervisors at this center. All individuals meet the requirements for their positions.

During the inspection, proper diaper changes were observed. Children were observed engaged in free-choice play in the majority of the classrooms with the learning stations made available to them. Some children were doing art projects. Some children were observed playing with manipulative toys. A staff member was reading a children's book to another group of

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children. Later on in the inspection, a classroom went outside to play on the playground. All children were wearing hats, gloves, and boots. Staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills. Toys, tables, cots, and cribs are all being sanitized daily.

NUTRITION: The center participates in CACFP. The center has a full kitchen and employs two cooks. Children eat at the child-size tables and chairs in their classrooms. All food menu items were sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center owns two vans that they transport children in from school to the center. The center also goes on field trips. Field trips are taken primarily during the summer months. These vehicles are services regularly. Children's emergency contacts and a first-aid kit are taken along for all field trips. The center provides booster seats for children.

PLAYGROUND: The playground is entirely fenced in and divided up into several playground areas. There are climbing structures, grassy areas, and blacktop areas of the playground. There are trees and the building that provide sufficient shade. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center participates in CACFP (food program). The center also employs two cooks.

The center has a partnership with United Way.

The center has a partnership with Early Head Start. There is a bulletin board with tips for parents related to health and safety.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

There are security cameras in place outside and in classrooms.

Alarms are in place on the back side doors. There is also an alarm at the main entrance.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

All children enrolled receive visual, dental, and hearing assessments. Mental health services are also available to children and families.

All classrooms have direct access to the playground area.

The playground is very large and divided into different sections based on age of children.

The center has their own website where additional information can be obtained.

Most lead teachers have degrees. Some staff are involved in the T.E.A.C.H. and WAGES programs.

The center has good community partnerships.

A few times a year, “Super Saturday” is held where a more deep cleaning is done and staff get training hours. A cleaning crew also cleans, sanitizes, and disinfects the center several nights a week.

There is a real sense of team, teamwork, and communication among staff. There is a good mix of tenured and new staff.

The new director is organized.

In the Spring of 2026, a new roof is scheduled to be installed.

Most staff have taken PBIS training.

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The Board is supportive.

The center uses the electronic app, Playground, for daily sheets and other communications with parents.

Enrollment remains steady.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(13)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
In the Pre-K classroom, there was a coat rack blocking the exit.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
1. In the school-age classroom, there were some dangling cords not securely fastened to the wall or tucked away. This was also an issue in the three year old classroom.
2. There were some cleaners in an unlocked lower cabinet in the school-age classroom accessible to children.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must:- Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
The center had to get part of a new fence when they moved the fence line in from the street. The bolts along the fence need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW IN REGARDS TO FENCE BOLTS (AGAIN, THIS YEAR, IT'S A NEW FENCE THAT IS THE ISSUE).

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

The above issues should be corrected as soon as possible. There shouldn't be any dangling cords exposed that children could grab a hold of. The coat rack should be relocated.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last tested in classrooms 1/24/25 - 1/27/25. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff in all classrooms. Radon testing can now be done every five years. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 1/7/26.

It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and uploading training. Mandatory Reporter and First-Aid/CPR will need to be manually uploaded.

There were a few Boppy pillows that were removed from the infant classroom. Alternative options were discussed.

It was previously recommended that when windows are opened (they have to have screens) the top half of the windows be opened rather than the bottom half.

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Date: 02/24/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.