Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Stepping Stones Child Development Center LLC

Provider No.: 52885

Address: 505 1st Ave N, Slater, IA, 50244

County: Story

Director's Name: Elizabeth Umland

On-Site Supervisor: Paige Birdsall

Phone Number: 5152283200

E-Mail: steppingstoneschildcare16@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/11/2026

Licensing Period: 06/02/2025 to 06/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/20/2025

Comments: Fire inspections due at least every three years. Completed by Dept of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL)-Seth Jones, Fire Code Inspector

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 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	27	24	62	104	217
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A full licensing visit was completed 6/11/26 Director/Owner Elizabeth Umland was present for the entirety of the visit.

Stepping Stone Child Development Center was given permission to open 6/2/25. The center building was completely renovated and specifically designed to provide child care. The owner/director is Elizabeth Umland. She is working toward an associate's degree; and comes with many years of experience in a child development home provider along with many childcare trainings and child-focused trainings. Paige Birdsall is the assistant director. Paige has an associate's degree along with several years of childcare experience. Both meet the criteria for their roles.

The center property has two buildings; the main building was designed to provide child care and pre-school for infants through pre-school ages. The secondary building, located just feet from the main building was designed for school-age children. The playground is enclosed and located between the two buildings. The secondary (school-age building) also offers an interior play center, with a capacity for an additional 44 children.

Stepping Stones Child Dev Center pulls from Iowa Early Learning Standards for curriculum, that the director indicates is meant to be child directed. The center also has an application to communicate with families called Brightwheel; where daily sheets and other daily information is available for the family to review through the day. Each Classroom offers a good variety of toys and play centers. The children were content and engaged in group activities or individual play during this visit.

Stepping Stones Child Dev Ctr currently offer breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. The center does not participate in the CACFP Food program, however menus follow CACFP guidelines for healthy meals/snacks. The children

eat family style in their classrooms with teachers.

The playground is located between the two buildings and is enclosed with chain link fencing; offering play equipment and a variety of outdoor toys. There is also an indoor playground, with play equipment structure located in the school-age building.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Stepping Stones Child Development Center offers completely renovated buildings specifically designed for childcare and pre-school, along with before/after school care.

The center has a secure entry.

The center was awarded a grant for Expanding the Early Childhood Continuum of Care within the center.

The center owner/director is very organized and encourages staff to engage in required and additional trainings.

The center owner/director works cooperatively with Child Care Resource and Referral to identify additional resources for the staff and children.

Children were consistently observed to be content with teachers that were either engaged in supervising activities or meeting individual needs.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

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.

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

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
--Staff files both electronically and physical files to be absent a valid first aid/CPR certification
-The director stated the staff have completed the re-certification and later provided the valid certifications; no further follow up needed

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.
--Child files were reviewed with some missing emergency dental contact information
-The director will seek out the families and obtain emergency dental contact information

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full two-year license in recommended.

Radon testing for the center was completed 5/13/26, all under 4.0, so due again in five years.

The last HVAC system inspection was 7/6/26.

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 on-going training for teacher behavioral management techniques. Teachers are working as a team; and are able to seek out assistance from the director/assistant director. The center is open to reaching out for assistance from community resource and referral consultant to observe and provide assistance with behavioral management techniques.

Date: 06/17/2026

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**.