IOWA HHS
Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Kelly K. Garcia
Director

06/30/2025

Megan Suckow
1220 Veterans Memorial DR
Carlisle, IA 50047

Dear Child Care Provider:

This letter is in regards to the compliance visit at your Registered Child Development Home B conducted on 06/26/2025. Iowa Code Chapter 237A and 441 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110, describes specific requirements that must be met by a Registered Child Development Home. You are not a participant in the voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System. The following areas were out of compliance at the time of the visit:

441 IAC 110.7 **Provider Requirements**

441 IAC 110.7(1) The provider shall meets the following requirements:

a. Gives careful supervision at all times.
b. Exchange information with the parent of each child frequently to enhance the quality of care.
c. Give consistent, dependable care and be capable of handling emergencies
d. Be present at all times except when emergencies occur or an absence is planned, at which time care shall be provided by a department-approved substitute. When an absence is planned, the provider shall give parents at least 24 hours' prior notice.
e. Shall be free of the use of illegal drugs and shall not be under the influence of alcohol or any of the prescription or non-prescription drug that could impair their ability to give careful supervision.

441 IAC 110.8(5) **Safe Sleep**

441 IAC 110.8(5) "a" The provider shall follow safe sleep practices as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for infants under the age of one.

a. Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.
b. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.
c. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child shall be allowed to sleep in an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat, or items not designed for sleeping.
d. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.
e. No co-sleeping shall be allowed.
f. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.
g. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

441 IAC 110.14(3) **Facility requirements**

441 IAC 110.14(3)“a” The home shall have a minimum of 35 square feet of child-use floor space for each child in care indoors, and a minimum of 50 square feet per child in care outdoors

Findings:

441 IAC 110.7(1) The provider shall meets the following requirements:
a. Gives careful supervision at all times.
441 IAC 110.8(5) Safe Sleep
441 IAC 110.8(5) "a" The provider shall follow safe sleep practices as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for infants under the age of one.
f. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.

**During the conversation at your home, you discussed with compliance staff that you return to the main floor of your home during nap time. In part of this conversation, compliance staff discussed safe sleep protocols with you and the need to check on infants no longer than 30 minutes at a time during naptime. You reported to compliance staff that you utilize cameras and you can see each sleeping child in the room. Compliance further discussed the need to check on infants by personally seeing the infant breathe and touch to know the infant is warm to the touch. You stated to compliance that by walking into the room all children sleeping in that room would wake and you would also wake the children sleeping in the main room as you walk through to check on an infant.

Supervision of infants who are between the ages of Birth to 1 year are to be personally supervised frequently, every 15 to 20 minutes, during naptime. A camera of any type does not replace the responsibility of a childcare provider to personally visualize the child and ensure that the child is breathing and warm to the touch.

According to the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education, (https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.1.4.1)
Supervision: Staff should stay alert and actively supervise sleeping infants by seeing and hearing them at all times, including when infants are going to sleep, sleeping, or waking up.
*Do not put infants in a room where they will not have direct supervision at all times.
*The lighting in the room must allow staff to see the infant’s face and skin color, check on the infant’s breathing, and see where the pacifier is (if used).
*Check to make sure the infant’s head stays uncovered, and adjust clothing as needed.

SIDS- sudden infant death syndrome and SUID- sudden unexpected infant death are unfortunately situations that occur in childcare development homes. The guidelines and laws established by the State of Iowa for childcare development homes are for the protection of children and providers. You discussed with compliance staff that you may change taking infants in to your program. As a childcare provider you have the right to make that choice. In this instance, if you choose to continue to provide care for children between the ages of Birth to 1 year, you will need to modify your practice from using a monitor to physically checking these children every 15 minutes. This change needs to occur immediately.

Overall supervision is necessary of all the children in your care. You are the primary provider and are the person responsible for the health and safety of all children in your care. You are using your assistant over the summer to help you care for a number of children that is within the guidelines of a category B home. Your assistant is not to be left in a caretaker role for any significant amount of time.

441 IAC 110.14(3)“a” The home shall have a minimum of 35 square feet of child-use floor space for each child in care indoors, and a minimum of 50 square feet per child in care outdoors

**While compliance staff was present in the childcare area, compliance staff recommended the removal of some of the items you have in the area for play. There is only a narrow path around the table/eating area. Compliance staff observed children trying to play with a cozy coupe, but they were unable to get all the way around the table. You had an exo-saucer presumable for the infant in your care for playtime. But this blocked the ability of the children to go all the way around the table. You stated that extra toys are needed for the children to keep busy. While compliance staff understands that children like different toys, your space does not allow for all of the items to be in the play area and allow adequate play space in this section of the childcare space. The space that has the indoor trampoline, craw-through worm has a little more space, but still not a lot for inside play.

Suggestions/Recommendations:

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact compliance staff.

Your CCR&R consultant is Kelly Phelps. Her contact number is 515-802-7292. Her email is kphelps@orchardplace.org

Your CNCC is Kelsey Marmon. Her contact number is 515-537-8738. Her email is kelseym@warrencountyia.org

Corrective Action Required:

Regarding supervision of all children between birth and 1 year of age, you immediately need to be available to check on any infant in your care every 15 to 20 minutes by personal sight and sound. By visiting your home, I understand the set up that you have for your childcare. I highly recommend consulting with your CCR&R representative or the CNCC for ways to make changes that support your ability to complete the health and safety obligations of your role in children's lives.

Regarding the play area space for the children in your care. Compliance staff recommends reducing the amount of toys available for the children that are kept in that room. This way, children have more floor play space and not small areas.

Compliance staff will complete a future check in visit.

Non-compliance with any of the mandated 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at DHS at 712-435-0576 or stacy.burris@hhs.iowa.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Burris

Social Worker II

Sheila Aunspach

Social Work Supervisor

Always Remember:

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 515-802-7279

As you plan your future trainings to meet your 24 hours of training requirement, please remember that you can access the approved training by going to http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Child_Care/Professional_Development.html

You may also access training at: https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/trainingregistry/

All providers need to maintain compliance with rules set out in Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 110, which includes: 441 IAC 110.5(1): Check with the appropriate authorities to determine how the following local, state, or federal laws apply to you: • Zoning code • Building code • Fire code • Business license • State and federal income tax • Unemployment insurance • Worker's Compensation • Minimum wage and hour requirements • OSHA • Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).