Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Gilmore City-Bradgate Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 151 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16250

Street: 402 SE E Ave **City:** Gilmore City Iowa **Zip** 50541 **County:** Humboldt

Mailing Address: 402 SE E Avenue, Gilmore City, IA, 50541

Director's Name: Darlene Box **Phone Number:** 515-373-6020

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** dbox@gcb.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 07-28-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-07-2024

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 04-27-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	21	23	72	50	166
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-03-2025

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Gilmore City Bradgate Child Care Center on 07-28-24 where I met with the center director, Darlene Box. Darlene took over the director role starting in July 2023 and is well qualified having been the on-site supervisor for the past several years. The center is located in the Gilmore elementary school and makes use of several classrooms and other areas of the school. The center offers daycare programming to infants through school age children. There are 151 children currently enrolled in the center served by 10 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visits.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains much the same as observed in prior visits however the center is in the process of exploring options to make changes. The program makes use of several classrooms, and an area of the cafeteria which was previously sectioned off for the school age children. The divider panels used to separate that area have been removed and the children make use of more of the cafeteria space but are also making more use of the gymnasium and school library. The center is communicating with the Fire Marshall regarding switching classrooms and moving the 2-3 year old children to the room where the 3-4 year old children are so that the school age children can make use of the larger space of the current 2 year old room. Options for making use of a new classroom space that was previously used for Home Economics type courses for the school district is also being considered. All classrooms were observed to be clean with no immediate concerns noted due to maintenance. The infants are served in two classrooms that share a connecting door. The younger infant and 3 year old classroom are also connect to an intervening storage/work room. Each classroom has secondary egress either through an intervening space or directly to the outdoors. All exits were observed to clear of obstruction, and opened easily and freely. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Restrooms are located off the main hallway corridors and children are escorted to the restroom when needed except for the 2 year old classroom which has restroom facilities located directly off the classroom space. Changing stations are also located in the classrooms serving infants and 2 year olds. Sinks are present in all classrooms to provide for hand washing. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged such that they do not create any blind areas. The center uses a curriculum that has a general centerwide learning focus posted at the main entrance, and each classroom did have a copy of the schedule posted.

All staff were observed to be providing supervision to the children during the visit with some providing more engaged interactive supervision, and others providing more observational supervision. The more observational approach was observed with the school age children when in the gymnasium where the children spent much of the day engaged in free choice play. While this approach can allow children to explore and develop their own interests it also has the potential to result in escalating stimulation and behavioral problems. This was noted with several of the children engaging in play that involved hitting peers and while not done in anger or frustration is something that could result in retaliation of that sort. It also resulted in a situation where some children were building a "fort" in the same area being used by other children to engage in a game of kickball. Having a more defined schedule and curriculum plan that moves children through large and small group activities, quiet and active, and self and teacher lead can help to provide a more rounded and engaging program with staff being in a position to attend to and intervene in behavior as needed. In other classrooms the teachers were actively engaged with the children such as doing small group activities with the 3 year old class, or direct care activities such as diapering, feeding, or soothing children for nap time. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age.

Good health and safety were practices during the time of the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change during the visit and staff did follow the required procedures. Good hand washing practices were observed with staff ensuring that children washed their hands before meals, following restroom use, and at other times as needed when they became soiled. All medications were labeled. Medications, chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could present a health or safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. First aid kits are maintained in classrooms, and both the center and school offices. Safe sleep practices were followed for children under 1 year of age, however one crib which was not being used did have a cover sheet that was too small and pulling at the corners of the mattress. It was reviewed that the sheet needed to be replaced before the crib is utilized. Cots were used for older children napping and appropriate bedding which can be removed and laundered as needed was present.

The center is currently contracting meal preparation and service through the school during the school year, and participating in the summer school meal program. During the summer meal program children and community members that are not enrolled in the daycare program do come to the school for lunch but sit in an area separate from the children in the program. The staff from the daycare do sit with the children to provide supervision at the table. A menu is posted and did identify a good variety of meal options that meet CACFP guidelines. Meals were modified to reduce the risk of choking for younger children.

The center has a playground area that is divided into a main playground for preschool and school age children, and a playground for toddlers. The toddler playground was observed to have a swing structure and paved riding track but all other equipment had been removed and based on the observed maintenance levels for issues such as the length of the grass did not appear to be a space that was being used. The space is fully enclosed by fencing and shade is provided by a large tarp awning. The preschool/SA playground space is a large open area with several mature trees, a grassy space, and an area with climbing structures and swings. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath the climbing structures. The equipment was generally in good repair but the tumbler spinners on the large climbing structure did need maintenance where one of the tumblers was missing, and another had a missing connecting bolt. This does create an entrapment risk and was identified in the prior licensing report and while it is understood that the school is responsible for maintenance issues the center staff will need to closely monitor the use of the structure until repairs have been made. The preschool/school age playground is also fully enclosed by fencing and buildings. Shade is provided by the buildings and several mature trees.

A review of administrative records found that required postings for Consultant Contact, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, No Smoking, and License Certificate were present in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors but the Mandatory Reporter notice was partially covered by another posting. The posting was moved and as a reminder those required postings must fully visible at all times. Emergency contact numbers were posted by phones, handwashing procedures were present by sinks used for that purpose, and changing procedures postings were present by all changing stations except the one in the 2 year old classroom. The center uses a combination of an electronic tracking system, Playground, for child files, and hard copy systems for staff files. Child files were found to contain current and accurate information. Additionally it was noted was that while the Playground application does allow staff to enter information regarding daily activities and disposition which are required the center was using a "select all" approach for those elements. While this may be appropriate to identify elements such as if all the children participated in a group craft activity daily care records should be individualized for each infant. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain current information with the exception of 5 files that had expired/missing Iowa SING background checks. These were renewed during the time that I was still at the center. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates all were current and available. It was noted that the center had not renewed Radon testing since June 2021 where the measured levels were well below the 4.0 piCu/L cutoff limit. Recent changes to requirements does allow that programs that do not have mitigation systems and measured levels in the acceptable limits can move to a 5 year renewal, but the center will need to re-test levels.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center does continue to look at options to update programming and services. In addition to the options for adding a new room or changing how the space is used the center has acquired new equipment. This includes items such as toys, mattresses, and other materials for classrooms.

Darlene identified that she has a very strong group of teachers working for the center who have developed strong relationships with the children and each other, and have worked to create a positive and engaging program for the children.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.4(2): Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.Mandatory reporting requirements.Notice of availability of the handbook.Name and contact information of the HHS licensing consultant.Program activities and menus.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at the main entrance of the center.

-- The required Mandatory Reporter notice was partially covered on the day of the visit including the contact number for reporting concerns. All required postings must be maintained at the main entrance so that they are fully visible at all times. The required diapering procedures posting was not present by the changing station of the 2 year old classroom.

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 5 -- NOTE: renewed checks were completed during the time of the visit. -- CORRECTED.

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 spinner tumbler element of the preschool climbing structure was damaged with one spinner missing, and another having a missing anchor bolt which creates an entrapment hazard. Staff do need to provide close supervision until this needs to be repaired. -- 2ND YEAR CITED.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.