Iowa Department of Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Cornerstone Christian Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID:** 52708

Street: 704 Grant St **City:** Parkersburg **IA** **Zip Code:** 50665 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 704 Grant St

Mailing City: Parkersburg **IA** **Zip Code:** 50665

Director's Name: Angela Meester **Center Phone Number:** 319-346-9806

On-Site Supervisors: **E-Mail Address:** director.cornerstone.daycare@outlook.com

Date of Complaint: 08-24-2026 **Date of Visit:** 08-25-2026

[X] Scheduled **[ ]** Unannounced **[ ]** NA

[X] Non-Compliance with Regulations Found **[ ]** Compliance with Regulations Found

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

[X] NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended

[ ] PROVISIONAL license from **to**

[ ] SUSPENSION of License

[ ] REVOCATION of License

Complaint Details:

Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Summary of Complaint:

A complaint was received that a child had eloped from a playground unnoticed by staff and was found by a community member who notified law enforcement and took the child to the local city hall/police station.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.10(14)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

Inspection Findings:

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

An announced visit was made to the Cornerstone Christian Childcare Center on 08-25-26 where DHHS co-worker, Damzilla Kauzlarich, and I met with the center director Angela Meester, and the staff who had been providing care to the child at the time of the incident. All were aware of the concern and provided consistent and credible information. All stated that three staff had taken a group of 9 children ranging in age from 2 - 4 years old to the playground of the elementary school. All stated that the group walked to the playground. All stated that the playground is fully enclosed by fencing with access gates. The teachers who had taken the children to the playground stated that they ensured that gates were closed after they arrived. The teachers did note that while at the playground a family with children, and some other children from the community also came to the playground and while the staff thought the gates had been closed again noted it was possible that they were not closed fully. The teachers stated that during the time the children were playing they took a break for the children to get a drink from their water bottles. The teachers stated that they had been conducting routine head counts while the children were playing and the child had been accounted for during each including just prior to the break to get a drink and it was during the drink break head count that the child was noted to be missing. The teachers stated that they immediately checked the playground area to see if the child was hiding in any of the equipment, one teacher walked around the corner of the building, and when they did not locate the child called Angela. Angela stated that she called law enforcement to notify them of the missing child and to request assistance, and it was just a minute later that she was notified by law enforcement that the child had been found and was at the city hall. Angela stated that she and the employee who had been cooking went to retrieve the child. All stated that the time frame the child was missing was short with estimates ranging from 7 to 10 minutes.

Based on the information obtained this complaint is SUBSTANTIATED for violation of Licensing Standard 109.10(14)a The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
-- Careful supervision is interpreted as maintaining children with direct line of sight and sound at all times, and being aware of the child's interactions such that staff can respond to any care needs or concerns. All parties provided consistent and credible information that staff had taken children to an off site playground at the local elementary school. All parties confirmed that while at that playground one child did wander away from the group unobserved and unbeknown to the teachers that were present. All parties stated that immediately upon discovery they began a search for the child, and notified the director who contacted law enforcement. Angela stated that within just a couple minutes she was notified that the child was found and was at the local city hall and arrangements were made to retrieve the child. All parties estimated the time frame that the child was unaccounted for was 7-10 minutes.

Special Notes and Action Required:

This complaint is SUBSTANIATED and the following actions are required and/or recommended. A full license will remain in effect at this time.

REQUIRED
1. Angela will review with all staff the center's expectations and practices regarding maintaining supervision and accountability for children.

RECOMMENDED
1. While the center does have written policies regarding care, and responding to lost/abducted children it was recommended that the center review the practices and procedures regarding supervision of children. Options such as assigning smaller sub groups of primary responsibility within the larger group for each teacher, mapping staff positioning and observation zones, and developing clear expectations for communicating responsibilities between staff when caring for children.

Consultant's Signature:

Ray Salsbury

Date:

08-26-2026