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

Name of Center: Calvary Family Center Day Care **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48658

Street: 1318 10th AVE SW **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: PO Box 184, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Vickie Zimmer **Phone Number:** 515-573-5866

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shantell Ayala **E-Mail:** Cfcdaycare123@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-10-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2021

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	19		20		39
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-24-2025

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 Calvary Family Center Daycare in Fort Dodge on on 07-10-25 where I met with center director Vickie Zimmer. Vickie took over the director role in 2022 and is qualified for the position based on her experience, and on-going professional development. The program is located in the Community Center building of the Calvary Memorial Church in Fort Dodge and is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program provides care to infants through school age children. There are currently 25 children enrolled in the program served by 6 staff. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains much the same as in prior visits. The program operates on two levels of the facility with infants on the upper level, and toddlers through school age children on the lower level. The upper level is a large open area. The center did remove the large panel dividers and now use low shelving units to divide the room into two spaces with one for programming and one for sleeping. The toddlers, preschool, and school age children make use of space on the lower level. The preschool area was not being used on the day of the visit due to flooding from recent rain. This did not cause any significant damage but the center was working to dry the carpeting that had gotten wet. Each classroom has direct exits to the outdoors which were observed be clear of obstruction and opened easily. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. Restrooms are located in hallways just off the main programming rooms. An additional sink is present in the infant area to facilitate hand washing. Hot water temperatures had been adjusted following concerns of exceeding maximum allowable temperatures and were measured to be below the 120 deg F. limit. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of play structures, and furniture which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas. The toys and materials present were generally appropriate to the ages of the children for each classroom but bean bag chairs were present in the infant room and these do need to be removed as these are not suited to the physical developmental levels of infants.

Copies of the planned schedule and curriculum were present for all classrooms. The planned curriculum did identify general learning themes and specific activities to be completed that supported those themes. Good interactions were observed with the staff being actively engaged with the children playing with them, talking to them about their play, and attending to their care needs. One issue that was noted during the visit was with regard to supervision. As noted restrooms are located outside the classrooms off main corridors. During the visit children from the school age room were sent to use the restroom on their own. There were additional staff who could have escorted the children, or the arrangement is such that with intentional positioning staff would have been able to provide supervision to both the classroom and observe the children walking to/from the restroom but neither situation was utilized during the visit. It is noted that this did occur during the time that Vicki and I were present in the classroom area and Vicki did follow the children to provide supervision but the classroom teacher had not requested she do that. This is something that will need to be monitored to ensure that it was not simply a situation of staff taking advantage of Vicki's presence but that they are ensuring supervision is provided to ensure children are within sight and sound at all times. During the visit all staff were very positive and outgoing when interacting with the children using positive tones of voice and word choices. The staff also made excellent use of proactive behavior management techniques with recognizing and praising positive behavior, using reminders and redirection with a focus on safety, and also using a focus on positive peer relations. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age.

Health and safety practices were mixed with some being very effective and others that need to be reviewed. I was able to observe a diaper change during the visit and the teacher did not follow the required procedures. This included not degloving between handling soiled and clean materials, not washing the infant's hands, and not cleaning the changing station properly. The required procedures posting was present but hung an a window where it was covered when the curtains were drawn. With regard to cleaning the center is using a bleach water solution that was marked as needing to made weekly, and the dilution ratio was for use as a sanitizer and not a disinfectant. It was reviewed that bleach water needs to be made fresh daily, and the center would need to follow the strong dilution solution identified for disinfecting for use on changing stations. Good hand washing practices were observed when staff and children did wash their hands. This included assisting children in washing their hands in an effective manner by singing the ABC song. Items such as purses, medications, and chemical cleaners were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. A first aid kit was present in the center and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The staff did take older children to an off-site activity during the visit and fully stocked first aid kit and addition staff were taken. Safe sleep practices were observed for children under 1 year of age.

The center playground has a climbing structure, spring rockers, and other equipment which were observed to be in good repair. Wood mulch is used for fall surfacing and mulch has compacted, composted, and been infiltrated by grass such that it was insufficient and children should be restricted from using climbing structures. In addition to the area with the climbing structures there is a green space of natural grass where picnic tables are present, and an area with planter boxes. The framing around the planter boxes was damaged and deteriorating to the point that screws and pointed edges were exposed and need to be removed or repaired. A paved sidewalk and patio area is also present where children can use riding toys, sidewalk chalk, and other outdoor play items. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing with a combination of chain link, and wooden panels. Shade is provided by large mature trees.

The center does have a full kitchen present and meals are prepared onsite. A copy of the menu was posted and was consistent with the served meal and identified a good variety of nutritious meal options. Good food storage practices were observed for both refrigerated and dry pantry storage items though it was noted that there were 3 thermometers in the refrigerator with each one showing a different measured temperature. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no evidence of insect or rodent infestation. Meals are served in the classrooms with the teachers providing supervision. During the visit one infant was observed to have been provided a full slice of peanut butter toast. It was discussed that when feeding younger children food items to need to be modified and Vicki stated that their food program consultant had directed them to not cut foods.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings were present and in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Copies of the planned curriculum for each classroom were also posted at the main entry parent board. All child files were reviewed and those files for children that have attended the center for more than the current year did need to be updated. All staff files were reviewed contained all required information with the exception of Iowa SING background checks which were expired for all staff. All inspection logs and certificates were current and available though the center had not conducted a tornado drill for the month of June 2025, or playground inspection for May 2025. The center does have a Radon mitigation system and Vicki had documentation that renewed testing was conducted in June 2025 but had not received results yet. It was noted that the manometer of the mitigation system appeared to indicate that the system was not functioning and may need to be repaired. The center handbook was reviewed and was found to be missing several required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations. The center's increased its rating over the past year from a Level 2 to a Level 3 program out of a possible 5 level scale.

Vicki reported that all staff are currently working to complete their Center Director Associate degree training.

Vicki also identified that the center has seen and increase in enrollment recently.

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

109.4(1): Written policies on: Enrollment and discharge. Field trips and non-center activities. Discipline/Behavior/Biting. Nutrition.
Health and safety policies. Transportation if applicable. Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center. Protecting children’s confidentiality.
-- Written policies are needed for Field Trips/Off Site activities, Discipline, Nutrition, Health and Safety (major and minor injuries, handwashing, safe sleep, immunizations), Incident reporting, Staff orientation and training, Biting, Access, Confidentiality.

109.4(1)c: Written plan developed for staff orientation regarding center's policies and licensing regulations. Orientation is in accordance with center's staff orientation plan.

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.
-- Documentation was expired for all staff.

109.11(2)a: The center will provide sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture. It must meet the developmental, activity and special needs of the children.
-- Bean bag chairs need to be removed from classrooms serving infants.

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 fall surfacing of the outdoor playground is composted, infiltrated with grasses, and is insufficient. The damaged planter boxes need to be removed.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
-- Staff did not deglove, did not wash infant hands, and did not properly clean the changing station.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action by 07-15-24 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: Confirmation was received on 07-23-25 that all background checks had been renewed.

*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.

VI. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: A visit was made to the center on 09-25-25 in response to a complaint that was addressed in a separate report. During that visit several issues cited as not compliant in the prior licensing visit were reviewed. It was confirmed that the center had completed renewed background checks for all staff. The center had removed the damaged planter structures of the outdoor playground, and the beanbag chairs from the infant classroom. The center was still working to complete the required written policies, and address the fall surfacing of the outdoor playground.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 10/2/2025 11:59:09 AM