Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Berry Tender Child Care

Provider No.: 22967

Address: 401 Commercial ST, Strawberry Point, IA, 52076

County: Clayton

Director's Name: Jessica Haynes

On-Site Supervisor: Melany Kelley

Phone Number: 5639332514

E-Mail: berrytenderchildcare@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/07/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2026 to 02/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/08/2024

Comments: Compliance on 10/29/24

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	5:15 AM to 6:30 PM		
Tuesday	5:15 AM to 6:30 PM		
Wednesday	5:15 AM to 6:30 PM		
Thursday	5:15 AM to 6:30 PM		
Friday	5:15 AM to 6:30 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	37	25	21	18	101
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 01/07/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Berry Tender Child Care in Strawberry Point. I met with Jessica Haynes, the director. Ms. Haynes has been with the center since August 2003 and the director since October 2015. Ms. Haynes has a one-year diploma in child development. Melany Kelley is the on-site supervisor for the program. She has been with the center since September 2004. There are 18 staff members employed by the center. Pictures of the staff members are in the entrance hallway with information about each one of them.

The childcare center is in the Strawberry Point Civic Center and it is attached to the local library. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:15 am until 6:30 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently of 93 children enrolled in the center.

The program operates out of the following rooms: Duckling (infants), Bunny (mobile infants), Bear (two and young three-year-old children), Tiger (three, four and school-age children), and Fox (school-aged children overflow). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in every room except for the Fox room. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet and colors. The children's birthdays were posted.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, playdough, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children. Staff members change out centers routinely.

Cots are used to nap.

The classrooms use a variety of resources to create lesson plans. Activities are based around monthly themes and each teacher makes their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review in each room. The center shares the same theme.

The center uses the Playground app for daily sheets in the infant room. All classrooms use the app to communicate with parents.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in the office and the Tiger room. Emergency numbers are in the binders with the children's emergency information in each room. Two-way radios are available in each room so that staff members can communicate with one another. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program rooms and gym. Post the emergency evacuation diagrams near the second door in the Fox room. Daily schedules were posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in October 2025 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program installed a new fuel burning HVAC system in 2023. An annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in each program room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/08/24, with compliance on 10/29/24.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The center makes the meals on site and uses a four-week rotation of menus. Ms. Kelley is the cook. The kitchen is in a sectioned off area of the Tiger room. The kitchen is separated from the classroom using countertops and cupboards. The children do not have access to the kitchen. Children eat in their rooms. Family style is not used. Menus were available for review. The center has an industrial dishwasher for dishes but also use the three-step method when necessary. The refrigerator and chest freezer have thermometers. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room, the center provides a specific brand of formula. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. The parents provide their children with baby food and the center provides cereal. Bottles are washed in the room using the three-step method. All other dishes are returned to the kitchen.

There is a refrigerator in the Duck, Bunny, and Bear rooms and thermometers were present. The thermometer in the Bunny room appears to be broken and should be replaced.

The center uses Purell Professional Surface Sanitizer/Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed/discussed diaper changes in the Duck and Bunny room. Staff members are leaving the gloves on throughout the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. I did discuss the correct process with staff members.

There are sinks in each of the classrooms, except the Fox room, and handwashing procedures were posted. There are diaper changing tables in the Duck, Bunny, Bear and Tiger rooms. Diaper changing procedures were posted in all locations. There is a bathroom connected to the Fox room. This has three toilets and one sink. Procedures were posted. There are two bathrooms with one toilet and one sink each off the Bunny and Tiger rooms. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance and in the center hallway. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license is in the office. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has two fenced in playground areas. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing in each area. There is climbing equipment on each side with activities like slides. There is a grassy space in each area. Trees are used for shade. Both sides are for children ages two through twelve-years-old.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve children's files. They were in good condition. There were two invalid immunization records. One was not on the mandated Department of Health and

Human Services certificate and one was not signed by medical personnel. Ms. Haynes is going to contact Heidi Walker, the childcare nurse consultant, to correct these. This will not be cited.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were actively engaged with the children in each room. Staff members have good teamwork and Ms. Haynes and Ms. Kelley check on rooms frequently. The staff members in the Bunny, Bear and Tiger rooms took the children to the gym to enjoy gross motor activities. There are visual cues in the classrooms to show the children the schedule for the day. Centers are clearly labeled. Staff members were on the floor playing with the children and encouraging them to use their imaginations. They held children on their laps and were observed to be nurturing and attentive. Staff members moved around the rooms to provide careful supervision. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. In the infant rooms the staff members had good knowledge of the children's schedules. There was child friendly music playing in rooms. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

All the rooms are secured within the building. There are cameras in the classrooms and hallways.

Ms. Haynes states she is working with Lisa Wood from Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) to get an IQ4K level of 1.

Ms. Haynes states they again received the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corp grant. They used it to get a water heater and build the closet to enclose it, they updated the bathrooms near the Bear room and they are getting new playground fence.

Ms. Haynes states that she and Ms. Kelley and the lead infant room teacher, Jessie Leonard, have longevity with the program. They know licensing standards and know expectations for the center. This also provides stability for the program and for parents.

Ms. Haynes states staff members work well together and they know what to do. They step up to help when necessary.

Ms. Haynes states they use the Playground app to communicate with the parents. She gets the app free through HHS and she receives coaching.

Ms. Haynes states she has a good and supportive board.

The program has a gym for gross motor activities.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

I observed/discussed diaper changes in the Duck and Bunny room. Staff members are leaving the gloves on throughout the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. I did discuss the correct process with staff members.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

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An administrative change is being made to increase the capacity. The center has added an additional room for school-age overflow. The new capacity is 101 children. The Duck room has a capacity of 17 children, the Bunny room has a capacity of 20 children (not cribs), the Bear room has a capacity of 25 children, the Tiger room has a capacity of 21 children and the Fox room has a capacity of 18 children.

Date: 01/08/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.