Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Sherry Darling

Provider Name: Sherry Darling

Provider No.: 19165

Address: 2585 Scenic View RD, Decorah, IA, 52101

E-Mail:

County: Winneshiek

Phone Number: 5633826216

[ ] Pre-Inspection Date:

[ ] Approval Date:

[X] Annual Visit Date: 9/17/2026

Program Type:

[ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)

[X] Registered Child Development Home B

[ ] Registered Child Development Home C

[ ] Registered Child Development Home C1

[ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

[ ] Infant(0<24 mos)

[X] Toddler

[X] PreSchool

[X] School Age

[ ] All Ages

1. Basic Overview

Sherry has been providing childcare since 1993. This includes about five years of childcare experience before opening her own business in her home. Sherry is a participant of the IQ4K quality rating system and the Food Program. She does not take infants but is willing to care for children from 18 months through school age. Sherry has a split foyer home and uses both levels for childcare. She does have the appropriate exits on both levels. She does have a good size yard with a nice outdoor space and play structures for the children. Sherry does not have a dog of her own but noted that her son's dog does visit occasionally and she did have an appropriate pet exam on file. Sherry's husband and adult daughter are both approved as assistants and substitutes.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Sherry has a lot of toys and activities for the childcare children. Her space is set up nicely. Sherry had 3 children present on this date and they were involved in listening to music and doing some large motor skills initially when this worker arrived. The children then transitioned to some free play. Sherry has a nice structure and routine in her day that includes activities for large motor skills and fine motor skills as well. Sherry talked of the importance and value of outdoor play for the children and shared that she tries to get outside twice per day. Sherry has a wide variety of toys and activities and rotates those out to keep things fresh and interesting for the children. She also has a garden and does involve the children in that which they reportedly enjoy.

Sherry is a participant of the IQ4K quality rating system, and her policies were detailed and nicely written. She had much more than the 2 minimum required policies. All of her required documentation was organized for easy review of compliance. This allowed her to continue to supervise and interact with the children while this worker reviewed her documentation.

This worker also observed her to appropriately redirect the children as needed.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

Sherry was in full compliance with all the childcare Regulations.

If you have questions, you may contact me at 319-429-0749 or via email at christy.weber@hhs.iowa.gov

Thank you for your service in providing childcare in your community.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Notes:
Sherry shared that she does not transport the childcare children.
Sherry shared that she does not ever use a swimming pool but may use a sprinkler for other water play.
We did discuss safe sleep policies although Sherry reported that she does not take children under 18 months.
We did discuss the number of children she is allowed to care for at one time as a Category B provider.

As part of the 2026 Targeted compliance the Emergency Preparedness Plan was thoroughly reviewed. Sherry was in full compliance with her EPP.
She was encouraged to review it at least yearly to ensure that no changes need to be made.

Recommendations:
As of 7/1/25 providers are expected to notify all parents in writing that the state does allow parents to submit an exemption for immunizations (either religious or medical) in lieu of the immunization record for each child. This worker did not do Sherry's annual inspection last year and Sherry did not recall this being discussed. We did discuss this at this annual check and Sherry agreed to get the appropriate language added to her policies and ensure that is provided to her families accordingly.

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Christine Weber Date: 9/17/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory 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.

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 I encourage you to work with Teri Orr with Child Care Resource and Referral if you have any ongoing compliance or training needs. Teri can be reached at 319-433-7750