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

**Name of Center:** Postville Childcare Services Inc **Enrollment:** 59 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18341

**Street:** 210 S Ogden ST **City:** Postville Iowa **Zip** 52162 **County:** Allamakee

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 402, Postville, IA, 52162

**Director's Name:** Kristine "Kristy" Turner **Phone Number:** 563-864-7669

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Lori Burns **E-Mail:** postvillechildcare@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 06-09-2025

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-30-2025

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

**Date Inspected:** 09-20-2024

**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 | 22 | 17 | 25 | 16 | 80 |
| 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:** Becky Frost **Date:** 07-14-2025

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 06/09/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Postville Child Care Services Incorporated. I met with Kristine "Kristy" Turner, the director. She started with the center in August of 2021 and became the director in September 2022. Ms. Turner has a BA in organizational communications and an MA in psychology. She has completed the NAC training. Lori Burns is the on-site supervisor. She is the cook at the center and was hired in August 2012. There are 24 staff members currently employed by the center.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The building is owned by the school. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 59 children enrolled. There are resources for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. The program routinely works with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). They help the center with room arrangements, training, and selecting developmentally appropriate materials for the classrooms.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room (birth until 18 months), transition room (18 months through 2.5 years old), toddlers (2.5 years old and three-year-old room), Junior Preschool (three and four-year-old room) and school-age room. The children do shift rooms during the summer months depending on the number of children. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Play-Doh, woodworking, listening, computer, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, 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.

The center offers a three-year-old preschool class that operates on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the school year from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm.

The center uses the Active Learning Series and a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. I also observed the Tinkering Toddlers curriculum in rooms. Each teacher develops their own lesson plans. Activities are based on weekly themes. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each classroom and in the kitchen. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in July 2024 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was located on the main level in the

hallway across from the infant room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/20/24.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. All food is prepared on site. Lori Burns is the cook. She uses a six-week rotation of menus. Dishes are returned to the kitchen and put through the industrial dishwasher to be cleaned and sanitized. There are also three sinks available to use the three-step method.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. There is an industrial refrigerator and two upright freezers. There were thermometers present. The storage room was stocked so that food was kept off the floor. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus and allergies were posted.

Parents provide formula for the infants. The center provides jar food and cereal for the infants. Parents are allowed to bring their own food for the infants if they want a different brand. Bottles are made in the classroom and are returned to the kitchen to be cleaned and sanitized.

There is a refrigerator in some of the classrooms and thermometers were present.

The center uses Sani-T-10-Plus to sanitize the food tables. Oxivir Tb is used to disinfect the changing tables. I observed or discussed diaper changes with the staff members and proper procedures are followed in most rooms. In the transition room the staff member left the gloves on throughout the process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper. The staff member did not wash the child's hands. She informed me she only washes the children's hands with soap and water if they have a bowel movement. Children's hands must be washed following all diaper changes.

The center uses cribs and cots to nap.

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

The playground is divided into four areas by fences. The infant room is right outside their door. There is currently no equipment or fall surfacing. The staff members put down mats for the infants to crawl on.

There are two areas for children, two through five-years-old. One area is a newer and was paid for by the school system. Poured-in-place rubber is used for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment shaped like a pirate ship with slides, a rope climbing wall, fireman pole and other activities. There are also swings. The second area for this age group is a naturalistic area. There is a large naturalistic sandbox that has tree stumps and larger rocks to play on. They have two slides built into a large hill. Woodchips are at the bottom of the slides. There is a playhouse. Trees are used for shade. There is a pergola shade structure in the area that covers a picnic table and a concrete path.

The fourth area is a large grassy area. There is no equipment. There is a tree for shade.

There are several containers of other toys and activities for the children outside to use on the playgrounds.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. There were three outdated physicals. Two files did not have permission to seek emergency care.

I reviewed three staff files. There was one outdated physical.

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 had great teamwork and communication with one another in the rooms where there were two staff members. Staff members were focused on the children. They offered the children choices and maintained positive conversation. They interacted with the children at their level and provided the children with paise. They used positive redirection when necessary. All the rooms took the children outside to enjoy the nice weather and engage in gross motor activities. Staff members were engaged with the children and modeled good manners. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. Turner states the center is proud of the inclusive, supportive, and culturally responsive environment they have created.

Their teaching team reflects the diversity of the families they serve, with staff fluent in English, Spanish, and Ukrainian. This allows them to communicate effectively with families, build trust, and ensure that every child feels safe, understood, and valued in our care.

Ms. Turner states they offer a fun and engaging summer camp program. Each week has a meaningful theme connected to field trips and guest speakers that help the children explore their community, build connections, and discover the opportunities around them. The goal is to make learning fun while instilling a sense of belonging and civic engagement.

Ms. Turner states their center maintains a strong partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral, which supports their commitment to professional development. They regularly participate in training opportunities to ensure they are meeting the individual needs of each child, and the teachers are always eager to learn new tools and strategies that promote safety, learning, and emotional development.

Ms. Turner states they are also fortunate to have a highly engaged and action-oriented Board of Directors. Several board members are also parents, which helps them remain family-centered in their policies and decision-making. They actively seek solutions, celebrate our successes, and advocate for continuous improvement.

Ms. Turner recently completed a year of consultation through First Children's Finance following their Business Fundamentals Training. This experience has further strengthened her ability to manage the center effectively. She has also had the opportunity to host legislative events and speak at town halls and city council meetings to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education and the funding challenges that centers like theirs face. Her partnership with Postville Community School District continues to be strong. They share resources and work together to enhance early learning opportunities in our community.

Ms. Turne states the center was part of the pilot program for the Statewide Solutions Fund.

Parents are required to complete twenty hours of volunteer work for full time children or their account is charged at twenty dollars per hour for the hours.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
One staff member had an outdated physical.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Two files did not have permission to seek emergency care.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
There were three outdated physicals.

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.
In the transition room the staff member left the gloves on throughout the process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper. The staff member did not wash the child's hands. She informed me she only washes the children's hands with soap and water if they have a bowel movement. Children's hands must be washed following all diaper changes.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

*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.