Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Ringgold County Child Care/Family Resource Center

Provider No.: 65

Address: 302 N Lincoln, Mount Ayr, IA, 50854

County: Ringgold

Director's Name: Rachel Worthington

On-Site Supervisor: Donnell Adams

Phone Number: 6414643385

E-Mail: frcdaycare@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/06/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/21/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	8	64		80
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Ringgold County Child Care/Family Resource Center on 5/6/26. Family Resource Center is community owned and is run by the board of directors. The center is located next to Mount Ayr Elementary School in a residential area of the community of Mount Ayr. The program is located in a one-story structure with a basement. Rachel Worthington is the director; she has worked at the center since August 2016 and became the director in August 2021. She has her CDA and NAC. I met with Rachel during my licensing visit. There are 46 children enrolled.

The Center Mission Statement is: The Family Resource Center will be a place in which children are safe and happy, and in which each child will flourish. The Center will provide numerous opportunities for children to experience wonder, pleasure, and delight. The rooms and playground will facilitate children "doing for themselves". Parents will feel confident and secure leaving their children at the center.

Services are offered to infants to preschool age children from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. The elementary school has a before and after school program that operates under the Department of Education; therefore, the center does not accept school age children.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and is well maintained. There are five programming rooms. One of the programming rooms was not in ratio. The junior toddler room is for children 16 months to 24 months. There were six children and only one staff present. Staff ratio may be reduced during nap time; however, it is not allowed for infants. The center should have had two staff present during nap time for all infant rooms. In the mobile infant room, I observed staff wash a child’s hands after a diaper

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change which is the correct procedure. Each room has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were observed napping. The staff had excellent interactions with the children; they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The Brightwheel child care app is used for daily sheets, communication with parents, and sending pictures. The daily sheets looked good. Rachel provided training on hand washing and the diaper changing procedures to staff after the last visit; however, this will be provided again due to noncompliance observed during my visit. The rooms had lesson plans/activities. The center uses Creative Curriculum. Rachel would like to work with CCR&R to discuss other potential curriculums for the center. The lead teacher modifies the lesson plans as needed. Preschool children work toward mastery of the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. Children are also provided opportunities to develop listening, social, leadership, motor, and safety skills. Preschool instruction is designed around center-based interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, literacy, computers, math, science, manipulatives, art, and sand and water. Parent teacher conferences are held in which progress and goals are discussed. The program rooms have monthly themes such as farm, apples, and carnival with a color, shape, and vocabulary words. The center focuses on literacy and participates in state and national initiatives which promote a love of reading. A weekly newsletter is provided to families. Rachel has received consultation and training from the Child Care Nurse Consultant and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). The center has utilized CCR&R for information on behavior management. I made a referral to CCR&R regarding curriculum. The center has three-year-old preschool but all of the children are four years old. They have preschool Monday through Thursday from 8 AM to 11 AM. It is open to children from the center as well as children from the community.

Nutrition:
The center participates in the federal food program. They have a cook on staff and prepare their own meals. Breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack are prepared on site. Menus were posted. Proper food storage was observed. Thermometers were in the refrigerators and freezers. The center utilizes food pantries.

Health and Safety:
The center has medication management procedures and utilizes the medication log. Six radon tests were completed in October 2024. All tests were under the required 4.0 pCi/L. Radon testing is required every five years if the scores are below 4.0 pCi/L. The center has all electrical appliances therefore a fuel burning inspection is not required. Toys are not sanitized daily. All hard surfaced toys must be sanitized at least daily. The center uses QDII for sanitizing and Oxivir Tb for disinfecting. The QDII is mixed daily. The center is on Mt. Ayr city water therefore water analysis is not required. Fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly. All staff took first aid/CPR on 2/12/25. The center has emergency preparedness totes to leave the building or go downstairs in emergencies. The on-site supervisor checks them monthly to make sure they are stocked adequately. The same sink is used for handwashing and food prep in both the junior toddler room and the preschool room. This is a risk for cross contamination. I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant for consultation and training on diaper changing and handwashing procedures. I would recommend posting a sign at each sink indicating whether it is for handwashing or food prep.

Playground:
The center has different outdoor play areas for the age groups of children. All areas are fenced and have a great variety of equipment. The two-year-old and up have riding toys, slides, sidewalk chalk, and other outdoor toys. Poured in surfacing is used. There is an infant playground that has slides and riding toys. The goal is to get rubberized surfacing and a climbing structure. There is a sunshade area, grass area, and cement pad areas for playing. The cement area is not currently being used, but it will be replaced. Infant/mobile infants have an area with a sensory table and an umbrella for shade. Monthly playground inspections are documented. The center has received a grant for an outdoor play structure and a grant will be completed for surfacing.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide transportation services. Walking field trips are taken throughout the year. A first aid kit and emergency contact numbers are taken on walks.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were read and were in excellent order. Six children’s files were read and were in excellent order. The center had the required policies and procedures. Rachel has staff meetings on a regular basis. She interacts with staff on a daily basis. It is difficult to find staff to hire and Rachel is in ratio in programming rooms as needed. She reported she is in ratio often.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Rachel is confident as the director; she is organized, creative, and enthusiastic about the center. Staff had excellent interactions with the children; they are positive and involved in programming. The center is a wonderful resource for the community. The center has their NAC - National Administrator Credential. Some staff have excellent longevity and some staff have their CDA's. The center has participated in a variety of programs; a pilot program for physical activity and nutrition - Nap Sacc and a guided growth business program through First Children's Finance and Ag in the Classroom. It provides cultural equipment and supplies for the programming rooms. A variety of grants have been received for equipment, staff bonuses, etc. Fundraisers are held throughout the year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required: Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present. At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting. If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained. Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained. When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present. For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center's hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center. Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded. In one of the infant rooms, only one staff was present during nap time and two staff were required. Infant room ratio must always be maintained.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. In two rooms staff were using the same sink for food prep and washing their hands. This is a risk for cross contamination.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 3/1/25 to 3/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Rachel her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. She said there are cameras in all rooms to help monitor staff. Some staff have PBIS training. The child care staff will staff children with challenging behaviors at staff meetings. They receive behavioral assistance from CCR&R.

I made referrals to Child Care Resource and Referral and the Child Care Nurse Consultant.

Date: 05/19/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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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**.