Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sugarbabys Childcare

Provider No.: 51633

Address: 915 W 4th ST, Waterloo, IA, 50702

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Renita Johnson

On-Site Supervisor: Renita Johnson

Phone Number: 3194299217

E-Mail: sugarbabychildcare@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/20/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/28/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] 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	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Thursday	5:00 AM to 10:00 PM		
Friday	5:00 AM to 10:15 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	8	10	21	6	45
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 01/20/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Sugarbaby's Childcare in Waterloo. Renita Johnson, the director and owner of the childcare program, was not present because of a family emergency. Ms. Johnson has a BA in a non-child related field. She was a registered childcare provider out of her home for many years. I met with Pat Johnson, Ms. Johnson's husband, who is in charge when she is away from the center. There are four staff members employed by the program in addition to Ms. Johnson.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The program was given permission to open on 11/01/21. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. It serves one-year-olds through school-aged children. There are currently 28 children enrolled.

The center is primarily operating out of two rooms but has the availability of an additional room and an open space where Ms. Johnso has set up a technology space. There is a room for children eighteen months through two-years-old, a room for three and four-year-old children, a space for four and five-year-old children and a school-age room. The school-age room is on the lower level. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The rooms are nicely decorated with several centers that are clearly labeled.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, technology, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, sensory items, puppets, woodworking, writing, math, science/discovery, magnets and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Most materials were in good condition. There was a broken chair in the school-age room. Please remove this. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

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The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans for the children. A lesson plan was available for reviewing the day of the visit.

There is a phone in the office and emergency phone numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted in each room. 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 for each room.

There are three bathrooms in the center with one toilet and one sink each. Handwashing procedures were posted in each location. There are two diaper changing tables in the center and procedures were posted.

Mats and cots are used to nap. They are being sanitized daily.

There is a first-aid kit in the hallway.

The program has a large fenced in area in the parking lot behind the center. There are basketball hoops, riding toys, a dirt digging area, dramatic play equipment, tables and chairs and picnic tables. There is also a bicycle merry-go-round.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in January 2025 and is good for five years. The results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was present upstairs and is above the stairs that goes downstairs and downstairs it is in the furnace room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/28/25.

The center does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Please be aware if you have children until 10:00 pm you will have to add dinner and an evening snack.

Ms. Johnson uses a five week rotation of menus. Ms. Johnson is the cook. She prepares the hot meals at home and brings them to the center with her. She has a crockpot, air fryer, microwave and a food warmer at the center. She prepares cold items at the center. Disposable products are used. The three-step method is used for dishes. Ms. Johnson has a shelf in each room that holds the plates, cups, silverware and paper towels. There is a refrigerator in most rooms. There were thermometers present.

I observed the kitchen. There are two standard refrigerators in the pantry. There were thermometers present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses bleach to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The childcare consultant and the handbook availability poster, mandatory reporter poster and the license were conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. Please do not block the mandated posters with other information.

Staff and children's files were reviewed on 01/28/26. Files were not reviewed on the day of the visit because Ms. Johnson was out of the center for a family emergency.

I reviewed six children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not have adequate emergency doctor information and three files did not have adequate emergency dentist information. One child had an outdated physical. Two files had an invalid immunization record because they were not on the mandated Department of Health and Human Services certificate. One file did not provide an emergency contact with a phone number. Families must provide at least one emergency contact other than the parents.

I reviewed one staff file. It was in good 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.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children while I was present. They sat on the floor with the children and encouraged them to use their imaginations during play. Staff members had good teamwork. They help one another out when necessary. They provided the children with positive feedback and redirected their behaviors in a positive manner when necessary. The children were excited and having fun at the program.

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 10/31/26.

Ms. Johnson states despite obstacles and low enrollment she is still here and wants to make the childcare business work.

Ms. Johnson states the center provides consistency and they are always there for families and the community.

The center has multiple rooms full of additional supplies and activities for the children.

Ms. Johnson puts written directions on the bleach bottles on how the product must be used to clean and sanitize. This is a great idea.

The center is a bus stop for school age children who attend Irving Elementary.

Ms. Johnson has a supportive husband who helps her at the center. The day I visited he stepped in as the cook and he will also fill in caring for children in rooms.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)d-Child File-Medical and Dental Emergency Information.
The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not have adequate emergency doctor information and three files did not have adequate emergency dentist information.

109.9(2)h-Child File-Immunizations
Two files had an invalid immunization record because they were not on the mandated Department of Health and Human Services certificate.

109.9(2)i-Child File-Physical
There was one outdated physical.

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.

Please review requirements for children's files and make sure parents are providing you with detailed and current information for the files.

Ms. Johnson only has four staff members, plus herself. One of those staff members is her husband and the other three were all hired within the last month. She is doing her best to train the new staff members while also making sure the children are properly cared for.

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Date: 01/28/2026

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**.