Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Iowa's Child Early Learning Community

Provider No.: 50547

Address: 135 E Douglas Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50313

County: Polk

Director's Name: Tracey Bolin

On-Site Supervisor: Amanda

Phone Number: 5152821729

E-Mail: tbolin@iowaschildelc.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/28/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/17/2026

Comments: Licensing requires these inspections be done at least every three years. Completed by Captain Laura Lyons, Des Moines Fire Dept.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 3

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	5:30 AM to 10:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 10:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 10:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 10:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 10:00 PM		
Saturday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		

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	20	70	70	120	280
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 5/28/26 The director was present throughout the visit along with co-owner Blaine Bolin.

Iowa's Child Early Learning Community was given permission to open on 4/29/19. This program was formerly known as Bear Basics under the previous ownership. The center serves children roughly six weeks in age to 12 years in age and they use the Creative Learning Curriculum and Big Day Learning Curriculum with lesson planning. The center is open year-round, Monday - Friday, 5:30am - 10:00pm and then again on Saturdays from 6:00am - 6:00pm.

This is a family owned business. The director of the center is Tracey Bolin. Tracey has over 20 years' of experience working in child care. Amanda Watkins is the on-site supervisor. She has an associates degree and several years of child care experience; meeting the requirements.

Room observations/activities: The center crafts lesson plans by pulling from Iowa Early Learning standards and uses the procare application to communicate with parents. Children were content, with teachers engaged in leading group activities. The classrooms offer a variety of toys and play centers. The center is updating painting as budget allows. There was an aerosol air freshener in the programming space which the director immediately removed.

Nutrition Practices: The center offers breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. When children are at the center in the evening hours , additional snack and supper are offered. There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The center is enrolled in the CACFP program and has menus in-line with this criteria, crafted by the director. Menus were posted. The kitchen was organized and clean. Younger children eat family-style in their rooms, and older children eat cafeteria style.

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Health and safety: Medication in securely locked in an easy to access area for staff. Handwashing signs were posted. First aid kits were observed in all the rooms.. Tornado/Fire emergency plans/diagrams were posted. Drills documented completed. There is a Carbon Monoxide detector in the library (1st floor) and in school age room (2nd floor). The center has an off-site evacuation/disaster plan that is reviewed with staff upon hire and then annually. The center will add training on the disaster preparedness plan to staff meetings.

Playground: Playground safety checks are completed. The playground in enclosed by chain link. There is natural shade. There are play structures for different ages. Safety surfacing is wood chips and was consistent in depth when observed.

Transportation/Field Trips: The center offers before/after school transportation to/from several Des Moines Public Schools in the area and Saydel ELEM school.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has maintained Level 3 in IQ4K quality rating. The center is preparing to apply for level 4. (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on)

The director and staff work well together and have good communication.

This center has a secure entrance and has video monitoring throughout the center.

The center has been working regularly with CCR&R and their nurse consultant.

The center participates in CACFP. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal child nutrition program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

The center works in collaboration with AEA, mobile dentist, mobile vision and health screenings, therapists, and other outside agencies.

The center provides alternative hours of care and are one of the few centers in the Des Moines Metro that has extended hours.

The director is familiar and has participated with Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa.

The director is also familiar with the TEACH program. TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

109.9(2)d: All files contain...information/authorization to secure emergency medical and dental services...
-Child Files were reviewed with a file missing emergency dental care contact information
-The director will obtain the information from the family and ensure this is placed in the child's file.

109.11(3)a: Facility and premises sanitary/safe/hazard free...
-There was an aerosol air freshener in the programming space.
-The director removed the aerosol air freshener from the programming space

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed in classrooms 2/25/23 - 2/27/23. Because radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff, radon testing can now move to being done at least every five years.

A full two-year license is recommended.

Date: 06/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.