Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lil Tattle Tales Childcare & Learning Center

Provider No.: 52145

Address: 3303 Harry Langdon BLVD, Council Bluffs, IA, 51503

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Janelle Kannedy and Esther Schroeder

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7123667034

E-Mail: liltattletalescb@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 06/05/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/29/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

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

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		8	8	6	22
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was made to Lil Tattle Tales Childcare & Learning Center on 6/5/26. Lil Tales Childcare and Learning Center opened on 7/5/23. Janelle Kannedy and Esther Schroeder are co-owners. Janelle is the director. Esther Schroeder, Janelle's mother, works at the center. Esther and Janelle have several years of experience operating a registered home child care. There are 23 children enrolled. The building is locked and staff have to let a person inside. I met with Esther and Janelle during my visit.

Observation of room:
Twenty-one children were present. The center was in ratio. The center has children from two years old to ten years old. An exception has been approved to allow two- and three-year-olds to be combined with children four and older. If there are two-year-olds present, the ratio must be 1:10. The center does not accept any children under two years old. The children were initially playing outside, then they came inside to eat, and then they all laid down to rest. Esther said Friday is pizza day. They have two additional staff and/or volunteers during lunch time. Please make sure all required training and background checks are completed for the additional staff and volunteers. The center looks great. It is one large room. There are a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There are two TVs mounted on the wall to watch movies which were on during nap time. The center has lesson plans posted on Brightwheel. The current theme is Island Treasures. Please post lesson plans inside the center. They use the Experience Curriculum. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The center had emergency diagrams posted but did not have emergency phone numbers posted. Please post emergency phone numbers such as 911, poison control, and other emergency numbers that may be needed by the phone. The daily schedule was not posted. Esther said it was due to school just getting out and they have not created a new one yet.

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Nutrition:
Meals are prepared onsite. Make sure the staff member who cooks is not considered in ratio. Even if you aren't on the federal food program you still need to follow the CACFP food guidelines. Esther reports they follow CACFP guidelines. Proper food storage was observed. Menus were posted. Thermometers were in the refrigerator and freezer.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. Radon testing was done in March 2024 with a test score of 0.3 pCi/L. Radon testing is required every five years if the score is under 4.0 pCi/L. Janelle and Esther reported that the building has all electrical appliances, therefore an annual fuel burning inspection is not required. Medication management procedures are followed when children are prescribed medication. They have one child currently on medication and have the medication administration form with the medication. The medication management class is recommended for both Janelle and Esther. There is a diaper changing station in the bathroom; however, currently they don't have any children in diapers. The center uses bleach water for sanitizing and disinfecting. Please follow the directions on your specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions. If the instructions aren't on the bottle, go to the website on the bottle for instructions. Please use the three-bottle procedure: 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Bleach water must be mixed daily. Esther said they would like to discuss other options other than bleach water with the Child Care Nurse Consultant. Handwashing procedures are posted. There is a first aid kit but it does not go outside with them when they go outside to play. Please take your first aid kit with you when you leave the building, including when you go outside to play. Each cot had its own sheet, blanket, and pillow that are washed weekly. I talked with Esther about proper ways to store sheets, blankets, and pillows to reduce the risk of transmission of illnesses and bugs.

Playground:
The center has a playground with several pieces of equipment as well as swings. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing. A new fence around the playground was installed in 2024. Monthly playground safety inspections are completed.

Transportation:
Daily transportation services aren't provided. The center just purchased a 15-passenger van for field trips. It has yet to be used.

Administration:
Janelle and Esther's staff files were reviewed and both were incomplete. Both only have their online certification for CPR and first aid. They have not done hands-on training yet. Esther did not have a current physical exam and both were missing their annual personal development training hours. Four children's files were reviewed. One was missing the annual statement of health completed by the parents and one file had only the parents listed as emergency contacts. They did not list anyone other than themselves. The center uses Brightwheel.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is an excellent resource for the community. Janelle and Esther are enthusiastic and proud of the center. They both have many years of experience providing child care. They are continuing to learn the licensing rules. Esther said they are a small center which allows for more 1:1 attention. They have volunteers to help with providing care for the children which allows even more individualized attention.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Janelle and Esther's staff files were reviewed and both were incomplete. Both only have their online certification for CPR and first aid. They have not done hands-on training yet. Esther did not have a current physical exam and both were missing their annual personal development training hours.

109.9(2)j: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions. Four children's files were reviewed. One was missing the annual statement of health completed by the parents and one file had only the parents listed as emergency contacts. They did not list anyone

other than themselves.

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 7/1/25 to 7/1/27

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Esther about their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Esther reported in their new handbook they have included they will be closed for three days throughout the year for training. Esther would like to take training in behavioral management. Staff walk away if they need to take a break. Both Esther and Janelle know each other well enough so that they can tell if the other is getting frustrated.

I have consulted with a supervisor and Lil Tattle Tales Childcare and Learning Center has been granted permission to mix two-year-olds to four-year-olds in the same room; however, they must maintain a ratio of 1:10 to ensure the safety of the younger children. The following rule is being waived as the center cannot easily manage aged-group sizes with just one room. However, no children under the age of two may be combined with the children through the age of four.

109.8(2) c. Children between 18 months and three years of age may be combined, if appropriate to the developmental needs of the child.

I made a referral to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to discuss other options for sanitizing and disinfecting. I would also recommend discussing becoming medication administration certified. I made a referral to Child Care Resource and Referral to address issues with Fieldprint, potential grants for the center, and behavioral management training.

Date: 06/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.