Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE ANNUAL EVALUATION

Business Name: Karen Kramer

Provider Name: Karen Kramer

Provider No.: 18299

Address: 510 W Main ST, Epworth, IA, 52045

E-Mail:

County: Dubuque

Phone Number: 5635991129

- [ ] Pre-Inspection Date:
- [ ] Approval Date:
- [X] Annual Visit Date: 9/21/2026

Program Type:

- [ ] Registered Child Development Home A (guidelines for ratios on all categories)
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home B
- [ ] Registered Child Development Home C
- [X] Registered Child Development Home C1
- [ ] Non Registered Child Care Homes accepting CCA

Program Population Served:

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

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1. Basic Overview

Karen has been providing child care for over 38 years now. Karen's daughter Katelyn has been an approved assistant/substitute within the child development home for over a year now. Katelyn plans to take over the child care when Karen retires in the future. Karen and Katelyn provide child care to children aged infant through five years of age. They are available for care Mondays through Fridays from 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. They provide a primarily play based environment for children. There is a daily routine and structured play for children. They work with the older children on readiness skills such as color and shape recognition.

2. Identify Observed Strengths Of The Program

Karen and Katelyn believe one of their greatest strengths is their ability to keep a good routine and structure in place for the kids daily. Parents are often surprised they can get the children to take a nap, however, the children are aware of their daily routines and schedule making things like nap just an everyday occurrence. Katelyn reports that since she has seen both sides of the child care world (being a parent needing care and now being someone who provides the care), Katelyn has a good understanding of the every day struggles parents have when it comes to their children. Katelyn and Karen balance each other out well, both providing for children's needs daily. Karen is a participant in the CACFP food program. Karen has an organized safe place for children in the lower level of her home. They describe their environment as much like a center with the large space available to children, but yet the intimacy of a home.

Karen reported that they are installing a dishwasher in the lower level of the home where child care is provided. There has never been one on this level, which left Karen either doing the dishes by hand or bringing the dishes upstairs to put in that dishwasher. They have determined that it is necessary to have a dishwasher on the lower level as well to ensure all dishes and bottles are being washed and sanitized appropriately. A dishwasher in the lower level where child care is provided will ensure that eyes and ears supervision occurs at all times and children remain appropriately supervised while further ensuring all dishes are properly cleaned. The dishwasher may qualify for the current Growing Iowa Grant. Karen will talk with Child Care Resource and Referral about this possibility.

3. Identify The Aspects That Fall Below The Standard

None noted. Fully compliant at this time.

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

No further action required - fully compliant at this time.

5. Special Notes/recommendations

Targeted compliance of Emergency Preparedness Plan completed - plan remains accurate and up to date.

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HHS Child Development
Home Compliance Worker: Kathy Huinker Date: 9/21/2026

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Development Home Registration. Please take whatever steps are necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above. It is essential you correct all above-mentioned violations.

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 Child Care Resource & Referral of Northeast Iowa 2728 Asbury Road, #215 Dubuque, IA 52001 563-557-1628