Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Royals Daycare

Provider No.: 52397

Address: 400 E Fenton ST, Marcus, IA, 51035

County: Cherokee

Director's Name: Amber Bruns

On-Site Supervisor: Abbey Feller

Phone Number: 7123761045

E-Mail: littleroyalsdaycare1@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/20/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2026 to 05/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/04/2023

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	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
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	30	20	43	25	118
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at this center on 04/20/26. During my time onsite, I had the opportunity to speak with Director Amber Bruns and lead staff member Abbey Feller. Ms. Bruns brings valuable experience from her previous work as a center director, and her confidence and leadership are evident in her role here. Ms. Feller also contributes a strong background, with many years of childcare experience in a variety of positions. Both Ms. Bruns and Ms. Feller recently completed the LEAD program through Child Care Resource & Referral. This program provides directors with supportive, hands-on professional development focused on leadership, program management, regulatory understanding, and building high-quality childcare environments. Their participation reflects a genuine commitment to strengthening their skills and supporting the success of the center.

This center is located within the Marcus–Meriden–Cleghorn School System. The facility includes six classrooms and an atrium area used for preschool and school-age programming. The atrium has many windows, creating a bright and welcoming atmosphere. The center provides care for children ages 6 weeks through school age, and operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The daycare includes three infant rooms (6–8 months, 8 months–1 year, and 1–2 years), one 2-year-old room, one 3-year-old room, one 4/5-year-old room, and the atrium area for school-age children. The center has secure access, with the entrance located inside the school building.

I observed all areas of the center, including classrooms, activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, playground, and administrative review.

Staff use a theme-based curriculum; at the time of my visit, children were learning about rain and how flowers grow. Children's artwork related to the theme was displayed throughout the center, along with other visual learning materials. The

overall environment is positive, with many signs throughout classrooms that include both words and picture cues. I observed staff members actively involved in classroom activities and providing appropriate guidance to children. Classroom schedules were posted and easy to identify. In the infant rooms, I observed appropriate diapering and sanitation practices. Staff were engaged with children at their level, providing nurturing interactions.

I observed a toilet-training schedule in this room that noted when each child had an attempt, what the child was wearing, and any individualized guidelines. This is a strong practice because it keeps all staff consistent and ensures each child's routine is followed throughout the day. It also supports child development by helping children build independence, confidence, and body awareness through predictable routines. Consistent tracking makes the experience calmer and more successful for children, which is important for both their physical and social-emotional development.

The program receives breakfast and lunch from Marcus Community School, which delivers meals from the school kitchen. The center provides snacks onsite. The school kitchen is equipped to meet childcare requirements. Meals are portioned out for service on carts within the classrooms. Food items are stored in a central storage area, with limited supplies kept in classrooms as needed. The center follows CACFP guidelines but is not currently enrolled in the food program; they are working toward becoming connected. A posted menu reflects a good variety of nutritious meal options.

Monthly fire drills, tornado drills, and playground inspections were up to date. The center has established medication policies and procedures covering authorization, administration, documentation, and storage. Formal medication administration forms are used for both prescription and non-prescription medications. Medications are stored in locked boxes that are inaccessible to children and the public. At the time of the visit, no children were receiving medication. First aid kits were present in each classroom and were adequately stocked.

Inspection certificates for the fire marshal and carbon monoxide detector were current. Radon testing has been completed and is within the normal range.

The center does not transport children. Staff and parent handbooks were reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

I also observed the playground. The equipment was in good condition, and new sod had recently been installed and was being watered. The program has implemented a cell phone policy requiring staff to place their phones in a designated pocket holder upon arrival and leave them there for the duration of their shift. This is a creative and effective approach to reducing cell phone distractions in the classroom.

Staff are trained in PBIS, which focuses on building positive relationships, teaching social–emotional skills, and creating supportive routines to help children succeed. This approach helps staff guide behavior in gentle, consistent, and developmentally appropriate ways.

Their goal is to continue to grow and increase staff.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has also been working closely with their CCR&R consultant as they move toward IQ4K certification, demonstrating a strong commitment to continuous improvement and high-quality care. Families benefit from IQ4K because it gives them a clear, trustworthy way to understand the quality of care their child is receiving. The rating system helps families feel confident that the center is following strong practices, focusing on safety, and supporting children's learning and development. It also shows families that the program is committed to ongoing improvement and meeting high standards.

This center has entered all staff information into iPower correctly, and I appreciate their effort and attention to detail in keeping everything up to date.

This center maintains a strong relationship with both their board and the community they serve. Their involvement with local families, school staff, and community partners is evident, and having the center located directly within the school further strengthens that connection. They are a wonderful example of continuity of care, creating a seamless and supportive experience for children and families.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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. Please address the peeling white board in the atrium. I suggest a simple solution would be to take it down and paint the wall.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management

I discussed with both Amber and Abbey their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

The center shared that one of the strengths of their layout is the large central atrium and the windows in every classroom, which allow for clear visibility and easy observation of staff interactions with children. Both Amber and Abbey step in to support classrooms whenever needed and make a point to visit rooms regularly to check on staff and children. The center also uses classroom cameras as teachable moments when appropriate. Staff are trained in PBIS, which supports positive social–emotional development and consistent behavior guidance. There is an open-door policy for staff to speak with Amber and Abbey, and staff shared that because they typically work in the same room each day, they feel comfortable asking coworkers for help when needed.

Director needs to email consultant by 07/01/25 a plan regarding the white board issue.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 04/22/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.