Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lakin Foundation Childcare Devel Ctr of Griswold

Provider No.: 52459

Address: 1105 North Street, Griswold, IA, 51535

County: Cass

Director's Name: Jacque Howell

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7127782273

E-Mail: lakinofgriswold@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/18/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/16/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] 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
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	20	20	20	30	90
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Lakin Foundation Childcare Development Center on 3/18/26. This is a new center that was built and opened on 5/13/24. It is located next to the Griswold Community School. The Noble Initiative takes care of the center grounds and the Lakin board takes care of the day-to-day functions. Jacque Howell became the director in August 2025. Jacque is a former director at another center and has done in home child care. She has been working in child care since 2012. She is currently working on her associate's degree in early childhood education. Child care services are offered to infants to school age children, Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There are 60 children enrolled. I met with Jacque Howell during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The building is a locked facility and a person must be let in. The mission statement is, "At the Lakin Foundation Child Development Center of Griswold, we believe that each child is gifted with a set of individual strengths and unique talents that can flourish with encouragement in an emotionally secure, physically safe, and fun environment." There are five programming rooms. They previously had a motor room but have since changed it to a lunch room. The rooms look great and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment and toys. All rooms were in ratio. The rooms have lesson plans. The curriculum used is the Learning Beyond Paper on Procare and Iowa Early Learning Standards for lesson plans. The lead teacher in each room makes the lesson plans. The gym/school age room has three toilets and three sinks (two toilets and two sinks were added). The daily sheets are on Procare and they looked good. The center has a laundry room. The children were having fun participating in a variety of activities. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and playing with the children. The Procare child care app is used for a variety of functions including communicating with parents. Staff walk the preschool and school age children to and from the Griswold Community School located next door every day. One staff member did not wash a child's hands after diapering until she was instructed to do so

by Jacque. Please contact the Child Care Nurse Consultant if staff need additional training in diapering.

Health and Safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. All appliances are electric so a fuel burning inspection is not needed. Oxivir is used for disinfecting. Signet is used for sanitizing. I confirmed with the Child Care Nurse Consultant that Signet is an approved EPA and child care product. Staff have been trained in emergency policies and procedures. There is a carbon monoxide detector in every room. Radon testing was done 6/30/25 to 7/2/25 and was in the acceptable range. Radon testing is required every five years if it remains below 4.0 pCi/L. The best time for radon testing is November to April. Jacque reports they follow proper medication procedures if a child is on medication. Two staff are certified medication managers and two others are going to become medication certified. They wash the sheets to the cots and cribs weekly or more often, if needed. Toys are sanitized at least daily. Every room has its own emergency exit. The emergency numbers and diagrams are posted in every room. The infant room is the shelter in place room.

Nutrition:
The center provides breakfast, lunch, and snack. Menus are posted and on Procare. The kitchen looked great although it was a little messy. It appeared to have not been cleaned up since breakfast. They have a dish washer/sanitizer. The center follows CACFP guidelines even though they are not on the federal food program. Proper food storage was not being used. Please seal food in an airtight storage container once it is opened. The main cook was not at the center on the day of my visit and Jacque believes it was due to this that the kitchen was not clean and the food was not stored properly. She believes proper food storage is used by their main cook. One room did not have a thermometer in the refrigerator. Jacque had extra and placed one in the refrigerator while I was present.

Playground:
The center has a wonderful playground. It has climbing structures, slides, climbing mounds, riding toys, hopscotch, sandbox, etc. Turf is used for fall surfacing. Monthly playground inspections are being completed. They are able to use the school playground next door for the older kids. Jacque would like to create a certified nature playground.

Transportation:
The program doesn't provide daily transportation services. They take walking field trips to the Griswold Community School located next door.

Administrative records:
Eight children’s files were read and were in good order. Two were missing a dentist’s name and/or number and one child’s physical exam was not current. Four staff files were read. Two were missing the federal background check. Jacque reported they had been completed and were waiting for the results. One was a recent hire, but Jacque’s should have been received months ago. Jacque emailed me on 3/26/26 and stated they had been completed and received the results. One staff member was not current with her CPR/first aid. Staff meetings and board meetings are held every month. The center is working on IQ4K.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The new center is a wonderful resource for the community. The Nobile Initiative and the Lakin board provide positive support and guidance. Jacque is very proud and enthusiastic about the center. She has done an excellent job learning the child care rules. She is very organized and has done an excellent job training staff. The center provides a safe environment with daily fun and educational activities. The center applies for grants for equipment and supplies for the center. Staff had wonderful interactions with the children. They were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Most rooms were staffed above what is required to be in ratio. Staff worked well together and are very excited about the new center. Jacque encourages open communication with parents and staff and feels it is very important for staff to feel appreciated. Staff are interested in the TEACH and WAGE$ program. The center is working on IQ4K.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment): Iowa’s training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training

and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed. One staff member did not have her CPR/first aid certification within her first three months. Two staff did not have the results of their FBI national fingerprints, but Jacque had them redone and received the results by the time I wrote this report.

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. Two children's files were missing a dentist's name and/or number and one child's physical exam was not current.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. Food was not properly stored in an airtight container.

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 5/1/26 to 5/1/28.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Jacque their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Jacque reported that if a staff member is struggling, she will sign them up for additional online training. They have monthly staff meetings in which they discuss behaviors and expectations. They usually have enough staff that one staff member could leave for a break or go ask for help. Staff expectations are in their handbook and staff are required to sign off on understanding the expectations.

Date: 03/26/2026

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**.