Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: ChildServe Autism Day Program - Johnston

Provider No.: 44758

Address: 5609 Greendale Rd, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Barb Williams/Kara Pick

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5157278750

E-Mail: barbwil@childserve.org

HHS Visit Date: 06/04/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/27/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Johnston-Grimes Municipal Fire Dept

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	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			60		60
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A an unannounced visit to the center was completed 6/4/26; Autumn Karmia, director was present during this visit.

The center has changed to be known as Childserve Autism Day Program--Johnston and is located at 5609 Greendale RD, Johnston, IA. This program, which began in 2015, provides care specifically for children ages 2 to kindergarten age diagnosed with Autism. The center has a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for the center's daily functions, within the ChildServe's process manual.

The ADP operates from three classrooms (each with a capacity of 20), located on the north side of the building. There is an additional space immediately adjacent to the the classrooms used as a gym or large motor play area.

This program routinely operates with an increased staff to child ratio and is well within state defined ratios. The children are content and staff were observed to be engaged in individual activities with the children. Each child attending ADP continues to receive individualized care/programming, that can include speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Center hours are 7:30AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Room observations/Activities: The center uses the STAR program for curriculum as well as providing services to meet individual goals for each child under each child's own individualized care plan. The center uses a computer application to communicate with parents. The children were observed to be content and engaged with individual activities. Staff were observed to be nurturing and responsive to the children. The rooms are organized and set up specifically for the child's developmental requirements while attending. This programming space was new to the program for 2025; this year there

was peeling/chipped paint and indentations in the walls and sheet rock on the lower portions of several classroom walls, all accessible to the children. This is an unusual observation for this program and the director stated the center is working to replace sheet rock with an alternate material for the walls that is manufactured to withstand higher-impact uses such that would be required for this program.

Nutrition Practices: The center follows the CACFP Food Program Guide Lines; as well as specific food/meal necessities for the children attending that are defined by each child's care plan, where it is served family-style by staff.

Playground: The playground is sectioned and enclosed by chain link fencing with a shade structure and grass surfacing. The program utilizes an indoor gym/play area just adjacent to the classrooms.

Transportation: NA

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center provides a unique child care opportunity for children with Autism. Each child is assigned an RN Care Coordinator who manages the child's Plan of Care. Staff receive specific training to assist them in providing comprehensive care to children being served at this center. Children are afforded large motor play on a daily basis through the use of the playground or gyms.

Each child attending this program receives individualized care; receiving speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. There is much collaboration between the departments and the children receive the different areas of therapy at the center. The children also receive one on one teaching time, using the Star curriculum, designed for children with Autism. The center sees great outcomes with the children and progress. The center is able to provide early intervention for the children to assist them in being ready for kindergarten. Some of the children are able to start kindergarten in regular classrooms with no IEP in place.

The center continues to provide a Behavioral Health program.

The center assists families with resources in the community.
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The center continues to have a higher ratio of staff to children than is required by licensing.

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.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
-All three classrooms were new to this program in 2025. The classroom walls this year were observed to have peeling/chipped paint with indentations into the sheetrock and the sheetrock dug out, located on the lower portion of the classroom walls and accessible to the children. This is an unusual observation of the center condition. The director stated that the center is working to replace sheetrock with a more durable maternal suited to withstand harsher use such that would be better suited to keep the classrooms safe. The areas needing updated/replaced is larger and may need to be completed in increments for budgetary reasons.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with the center director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The director reiterated this center provides specialized care for children with autism so staff working with the children acquire many trainings to help develop behavior management techniques.

Date: 07/17/2026

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**.