Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Grinnell Community Early Learning Center

Provider No.: 17852

Address: 1436 Penrose ST, Grinnell, IA, 50112

County: Poweshiek

Director's Name: Kathleen Whisenand

On-Site Supervisor: Liz Lahn

Phone Number: 6412367214

E-Mail: director@grinnellearlylearningcenter.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/24/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/13/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	54	34	40	48	176
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Grinnell Community Day Care and Preschool has been in operation since 1969. The center is located in a single standing building with a secured entrance. The center provides programming for children ages infancy through school age. Kathleen Barnes is the director. Kathleen has been employed at the daycare since 2007. She has a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education. Liz Lahn is the assistant director. Liz has been with the daycare since 202. Liz has a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Each classroom has a schedule posted. Classrooms had current lesson plans posted. Classrooms are well furnished with furnishings, toys and learning supplies. Classrooms for the 2's and up have well supplied learning centers.

Kathleen assisted with today's visit. The Honey Bees had five infants present. Three staff were working in this classroom. The Ducklings had four infant present. There were two staff working in this class. The Pandas (1's) had three children present. One staff was working in this classroom. The Busy Bees (1's) had seven children present. Two staff were working with this group. Lambs I (2's) had eight children present. Lambs II (2's/3's) had nine children present. Two staff were working in both of these classroom. The Teddy Bears (3's/4's) had ten children present. There were two staff were working in this class. The Tigers (4's) had eleven children in attendance. Two staff were working with this group. The Cheetahs (4's) had thirteen kids in attendance. Two staff were working with this class. The Panthers (school age) had twenty five children in attendance. Three staff were working with this age group. Children were observed in their classrooms today. Children were observed during child directed and staff led activities.

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The center has two playgrounds. Two smaller playground is for children ages two and under. Children age two and older play on the larger playground. There are tiles for surfacing on both playgrounds. There is concrete and grass on both playgrounds. School age children also use the park next to the daycare. The center completes monthly playground checklists.

The center has a full kitchen and cook on staff. The center participates in CACFP. Breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are served. Menus are on a monthly rotation with some seasonal items varying in the menus. Snack served today was crackers and milk.

The center uses buses for transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Kathleen has her NAC accreditation. She has been employed at the center for many years. The center also participates in the IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) quality program and has earned a level four. The center has a gym so large motor play activities are available on inclement weather days.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.

Date: 09/04/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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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**.