Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Wee Learners

Provider No.: 28393

Address: 210 W Green, Winterset, IA, 50273

County: Madison

Director's Name: Barbara LaGrange

On-Site Supervisor: Kris Jacobsen

Phone Number: 5154735284

E-Mail: barb@lagrange.ws

HHS Visit Date: 09/10/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/19/2024

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations. The program will be due for another inspection in 2/2027.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8.00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday			
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	29	0	29
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/10/26. The owner/director and on-site supervisor were both present throughout this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Wee Learners is a preschool program located in the First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset, IA. The preschool utilizes two classrooms on the main level of the church. The main entrance into the preschool area is located along a side entrance by the playground area. The preschool serves children ages three, four, and five years in age during the school year. Children attend either in the AM or PM, Monday through Thursday and there are a couple of different options for times children can attend that parents can choose from. There are no classes on Fridays this year. The preschool utilizes several curriculums that they use with children which include the Creative Learning Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum, Al's Pals, Sound Sensible, Everyday Mathematics, and Heggerty Curriculum. The preschool requires that all children be toilet trained (or mostly) before being enrolled. Total child enrollment is currently 44 children.

Barb LaGrange is the owner/director of the preschool. Barb has been with Wee Learners since 2002 and the director/owner since 2006. Barb has her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education as well as several endorsements in Early Childhood Education. Kris Jacobsen is the on-site supervisor and assistant teacher. Kris has her Master’s Degree in Speech Pathology and an AA degree in Early Childhood Education. Kris has also worked at Wee Learners for many years.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

NUTRITION: Children either receive an AM snack or a PM snack depending on when they attend. The preschool sends out a list of credible food items per CACFP that parents can bring and then it is also listed at one of the boards what could be the snack for any particular day. Children eat in the smaller classroom at the child-size tables and chairs. Food storage on site observed was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: As previously noted, the center does not transport. The only field trips taken are walking field trips to local businesses. The center will also bring in agencies for presentations to the children from time to time throughout the school year.

PLAYGROUND: The playground area is fenced in. It is mostly grass. Outdoor playground toys were present. The church building provides some shade. Monthly playground inspections are being documented. A couple of bolts along the fence will need to be recapped.

During the inspection, children were engaged in a variety of activities at the different learning stations made available to them. A few children were playing with dramatic play toys. Some children were playing with manipulative toys. Some children were observed playing with blocks. Children in the smaller classroom were working on coloring letters and words. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more challenging child behaviors, because the program is smaller, constant communication is practiced between staff, staff and children, and staff and parents. Teamwork and working together is also stressed. The center makes it a point to get to know there families and there are a number of ways this occurs even before the start of the new school year to the last day of the school year.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The preschool participates in QPPS. The director has her NAC membership and NAEYC.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The preschool continues to use Al's Pals to assist children with learning good social skills and making good choices.

Communication with parents is highly stressed at the preschool. Parents get a monthly newsletter about all preschool events and happenings. Parents also get a specific, weekly report update on their child. Parent teacher conferences are held two times a year as well as one home visit a year for children. There is a family night outing held one time a year as well as an open house at the beginning of the year.

The program uses the electronic application, Class Dojo, for further communication with parents.

Literacy testing is conducted for all children enrolled. Portfolios are kept on all children to track progress throughout the school year (identifying shapes, colors, writing/coloring skills, etc.).

The preschool conducts daily health and safety checklists.

The director is highly organized. Daily staff meetings are held.

The classrooms are nicely organized. Learning stations are labeled.

There is a secure entrance into the building and classrooms.

The program has a lot of extra storage space.

Children again had a lot of options to choose from on the day of the visit. Good staff/child interactions were observed.

Enrollment remains steady.

A new radon mitigation system was been installed in 2023.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic. ------A couple of bolts along the fence will need to be recapped so that no more than two threads are showing.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last conducted 8/22/25 - 8/26/25. A new radon mitigation system was installed in 2023. Levels in the two classrooms this time came back below the 4.0 cutoff so the center can move to testing every five years if they choose. However, it is recommended they stay on the two-year testing plan at least one more time given past radon issues the program has had. Part of the higher radon levels in the past have been in part to the mitigation system not in place and the dirt basement floor.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 11/20/25 so it is coming due again.

Staff are uploading their trainings into I- Power and should continue to do so.

Date: 09/10/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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**.