Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Richland Area Child Care Organization
Provider No.: 52647

Address: 101 South Walnut St, Richland, IA, 52585

County: Keokuk

Director's Name: Miranda VanAntwerp
On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 3194565660
E-Mail: iowajeffersonkeokukeci@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/23/2026

Licensing Period: 12/01/2026 to 12/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/09/2024

Comments: due every 3 years completed by State Fire Inspector Damien Dawson

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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	18	14	18	15	65
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Richland Area Child Care Organization is a newly constructed child care center in Richland. They provide traditional child care, and before and after school care. The building is a single story sole occupancy in a residential neighborhood. All areas of the center were observed prior to Permission To Open being given. The center began providing care on 12/9/24. An unannounced licensing visit was conducted on 4/7/25. All program areas were observed at that time. Miranda VanAntwerp is the new Director. She holds a Masters in Education from Iowa State University (Middle/Secondary Education) as well as a BA in Elementary Education from William Penn. Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson is frequently present as is Pat McReynolds (board members). I met with Ms. VanAntwerp the date of the visit.

On 2/23/2026 all program space was observed on an unannounced licensing visit and met Director VanAntwerp. The visit consisted of classroom and outdoor play area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center has a large parking lot, security doors and classrooms for each age group.

Center Nutrition:

The center kitchen was clean the day of the visit. Food was stored appropriately. Open food was in sealed containers. No expired food was noted. No food was stored on the floor. Thermometers are present in the freezer and refrigerator. Center menus indicate CACFP requirements are being met.

Center Health and Safety:

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

This building is set up to accommodate infants and may change year to year based on center needs. No infants were present as it was the end of the day. The Director and staff are aware of Safe Sleep requirements. As children are dozing off or showing signs of sleepiness they should be moved to cribs. HHS encourages the center to observe sleep ques and place children in cribs.

Supervision and ratios were reviewed during the visit. The center will refine schedules, routines and curriculum as enrollment increases. Staff are assigned specific children to supervise so that they are reasonably able to know the names and number of children assigned to their care. The center Director and staff are aware of supervision requirements.

If medications are added they will have pharmacy labels intact and are kept out of the reach of children. Emergency medication will be stored with the child indoors and outdoors but also kept inaccessible to children but easily accessible to staff.

First aid kits are present and contain items to administer basic First Aid. All kits observed are now labeled.

Radon testing should be conducted in winter months when the ground is frozen. It is due every five years. The center has conducted testing within the past 5 years with a reading below 4 pci/L.. The center does contain fuel burning appliances and has an inspection from last year. The fuel burning appliance inspection is required annually. The center contains UL approved plug in carbon monoxide detectors. Ventilation and lighting are adequate.

We reviewed tornado and fire drills. These have been documented on a monthly basis, and documentation is present with the exception of March.

Allergy action plans should be in the rooms where staff can reference them in an emergency. The Director is aware all plans must be signed by parents and a physician. There are currently no children enrolled in the program with allergies or other health care needs.

Children have at least 35 square feet each in every classroom. Children are spaced at least two feet apart during nap time.

Center Outdoor Play Area:

An outdoor play area is present for each age group. New chain link fence separates each area. First aid kits are taken outdoors, as well as emergency medications.

Playground inspections have been performed and documented monthly. Staff utilize the Child Care Weather Watch to determine if outdoor play is suitable in varying weather conditions. If weather conditions meet standards children should be outdoors playing. CCNC Mandi Lauderman can provide more information on this topic or any other health or safety outdoor issue. Each outdoor play area ensures each child has 75 square feet each for gross motor play.

All staff meet all licensing requirements including CPR/First Aid training, Mandatory Reporter training, PD training (Essentials), approved physicals and SING checks and Fingerprint results.

Center Field Trips:

The center may go on field trips in the future. Emergency contacts and medication as well as a First Aid kits will be taken on each trip. Field trip ratios will be followed. Community members come to the center for presentations as well.

Center Administration:

All required postings were present including Mandatory Reporter information, HHS Center License, DHS Center Consultant Contact information and No Smoking signage. The center has a tracking system for staff and child files.

Staff and child files are reviewed annually. Administration keeps detailed staff and child tracking sheets.

Administration secured all child physicals. Immunization certificates are present and will be reviewed by IDPH. Child files have signed field trip authorizations and have annual updates on pick up authorizations, emergency contacts and dental and medical information.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Fingerprints (due every four years) and SING checks (every 2) were reviewed. Professional Development training (Essentials), CPR/1st Aid, Mandatory Reporter training, staff physicals, fingerprints and SING checks are tracked and monitored.

Staff have been trained on the Emergency Preparedness Plan. However, a few details need to be added to the plan. Once this occurs all staff will sign and date acknowledgement of such. Any new staff must also be trained on the plan.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center meets a childcare need in the community.

The center has very few violations.

The center has the support of a strong board.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. The Director is working with parents to get updated physicals.

2. 109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. The inspection is overdue. The Board and Director agreed to secure a new inspection.

On 3/10/26 the Director stated, "All child physicals have been updated and our fuel burning appliance inspection is tomorrow morning at 9."

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon this review, it is recommended this center begin in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations have been corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The center may reach out to CCR&R Consultant Malia Love or Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman/Tammy Merrill at any time for consultation.

Child Care Resource & Referral offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Consultant Love provided the following the past year:
10/2/2024-Spoke to Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson about hiring a director, the CMS system, and their timeline for opening.

10/16/2024-Provider policy guidance and resources

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

11/6/2024-Provided resources around special needs CCA information, Caring for Our Children resources for cleaning and referred the director Tabitha, to the CCNC's

11/14/2024-Provided policy guidance around Mandatory Reporting and staff confidentiality.

11/21/2024-Reviewed the Parent and Staff Handbooks for the center and sent feedback

11/26/2025-On site visit, did a walk through of each classroom provided feedback on what was needed in reach room as well as best practice, went over staff file requirement, how to access i-Power and set up accounts and navigate the system.

12/2/2024-Provided assistance with i-Power

12/06/2024-I met with the program along with the CCNC, we went through each classroom using the HHS checklist as well as other resources to make sure the classrooms had everything in place for their soft opening 12/9/2024. I went through the checklist with the director and left her with some resources and books. I followed up with an email attaching examples of CACFP menus as well as an email to the CCNC about cleaning.

1/13/2025-Provided handwashing signs

1/14/2025-Discussed the use of a backup On site Supervisor, what was required and how it was an occasional need and not a regular occurrence.

1/17/2025-Went over the HHS Licensing Notebook, discussed policies and handbooks, provided resources, discussed emergency kits and scenarios and how to plan and prepare for those.

1/29/2025-Provided CCA resources and information to the program.

1/30/2025-Reviewed the updated parent and staff policy handbooks and sent feedback

2/12/2025-Went over updated policy handbooks

3/10/2025-Answered questions around CACFP and health codes for the program director

4/9/2025-I followed up with the program after their licensing visit. I included resources for them to complete their Emergency Preparedness Plan and offered my support with questions or concerns. The program reached out asking what they could use on their first aid bags to show the first aid symbol. I replied with an email and let them know they could print off the First Aid symbol and tape or safety pin it to the bag. I attached a jpg copy of the symbol as an option.

4/9/2025-Email, I followed up after their licensing visit and provided resources for completing their Emergency Preparedness Plan and resources for their first aid kits.

6/2/2025-Email, Provided i-Power and i-Power Profile support

6/3/2025-On site, went over Growing Iowa Grant, supported the director with updating staff i-power profiles and went to classroom, everyone was in ratio, saw no concerns.

6/4/2025-Email, Offered support and forms for CCA for both the center and for families

6/30/2025-Email, Discussed ratio and the different ages and who could be mixed

7/24/2025-Email, supported program with questions about CCA

8/1/2025- On site, while visiting about IQ4K we also discussed training, ratio and age mixing. Saw classrooms no concerns noted.

8/8/2025-Email, answered questions about staff under 18 and being alone with school age children only. Included the

definition for school age

8/25/2025-Email, discussed CPR/First Aid training and how many could attend and the cost.

9/2/2025- On site, I met with the program to drop off materials and while there discussed with the director the program dynamics, how many staff and children they have. We went over volunteer requirements and who would be allowed to be counted in ratio. We discussed age mixing and who would be allowed together. I also mentioned that the Growing Iowa money was coming out again and encouraged them to apply for it for the outdoor shading as that would be regulatory.

9/3/2025-Email, answered questions about sun shading for Growing Iowa

9/17/2025-Email, provided support with OSS worksheets and calculating points and requirements.

9/22/2025-On site, went over Growing Iowa plans and request, saw classrooms, no concerns were noted at this visit.

10/14/2025-Email, Answered questions about the process for requesting and approving an OSS role.

10/28/2025-On site, while working on IQ4K I assisted the director with updating profiles in i-Power.

11/5/2025-Offered support and connected staff with ISU Moodle support with issues with trainings not pulling into i-Power

11/13/2025-Email, Provided the director with a copy of the HHS licensing Notebook Template.

12/10/2025-Email, Provided CCNC Tammy Merril contact information for the Region 5 Behavioral Health Specialist Tricia on behalf of the program who had a child in care with some challenging behaviors.

1/2/2026-Phone, While discussing IQ4K I also followed up with the provider on supports for a child in care who had been exhibiting challenging behaviors was told the child was doing better and no longer needed supports.

1/14/2026-On site, provided IQ4K supports and while there saw classrooms, no concerns noted.

1/21/2026-Phone, The program director reached out to discuss room arrangements and if changing tables would be needed for each age group even those who are potty training. I discussed some basics of room arrangement and offered to come and assist as well as suggesting the ERS books for guidance. I also let her know that if they had anyone in the classrooms who was still in diapers then they would want to have a changing table or a changing mat in that room.

2/2/2026-On site, discussed IQ4K and looked at rooms, no concerns were noted.

2/13/2026-On site, went over IQ4K and toured rooms, director updates me on plans for the future with the center. No concerns were noted.

2/23/2026-Email, sent reminder email about 6-month expiration mark for licensing, offered support with files, training, and to do a walk-through of the program. Let them know I would follow up again at the 3 month mark.

Malia Love
Child Care Consultant
Child Care Resource & Referral of Southeast Iowa
Community Action of Eastern Iowa
mlove@caeiowa.org

T: 563-271-0643
500 E 59th St.| Davenport, IA 52807| www.iowaccrr.org
Serving 19 Counties

Funding provided by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services through the Child Care and Development Fund

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Facebook | Instagram | YouTube | News | Training

Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues.

HHS recommends centers utilize IDPH and CCR&R services. The center is already actively involved with both Child Care Resource & Referral and Child Care Nurse Consultant Malia Love and with the Iowa Department of Public Health CCNC Tammy Merrill. CCNC Merrill had 3 visits to Richland – 2 of the visits were for Medication Administration check offs. She stated, "I have toured the building, gave input in the staff and parent handbook, policies, numerous TA's on cleaning and sanitizers, medication questions, immunization questions, window coverings, toys etc." CCNC Mandi Lauderman stated, "I have visited Richland a few times to provide guidance regarding many issues, playground, cleaning & sanitizing products, etc. "

The Director and I discussed child behaviors and intervention strategies, training and implementation.

She stated, "At Richland Child Care, our behavior management expectations are laid out in our operational handbook which staff are required to read upon being hired and each time the handbook goes through a major revision. Staff are directed to redirect unwanted behavior. For example, if a child is trying to take a toy from a peer, staff are expected to ask the child to wait and help them find a different toy. I also try to model this during orientation. Behavior management is also a constant topic of informal conversation at the center. Staff do a great job of recognizing when they are getting frustrated with children's behavior and reach out for help. If more children and staff were on site, we would be able to use the primary care method where each teacher in the classroom is responsible for a specific group of children. This would allow teachers to switch groups when they find themselves getting frustrated with specific behaviors. Staff also do a great job recognizing that each child is different and responds to different methods. I would say that I monitor these skills and expectations by being in every classroom every day - this encourages those informal conversations. My staff feel that I am accessible when they face a challenge and don't hesitate to reach out. This year, all staff are also expected to take the EC-PBIS training for their specific age groups."

CCNC Tammy Merrill and Mandi Lauderman both serve the center. CCNC Merrill tested med administration out with the OSS in October 25. She also came in to work with the center on a plan for a child with lactose intolerance . CCNC Lauderman will be conducting a Safe Sleep training in April. The Director states she has frequent consultation with them by email. She gave an example of discussions regarding cleaning products that work well in childcare.

Miranda has called or emailed regarding any questions she may have, so several TA's also during the course of a year.

10/28/25- Medication Administration check off and discussed breast milk storage. Tammy
7/31/25- Education on special needs and care plans. Mandi
6/24/25- Education on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Mandi
6/5/25- BPA signed, special needs discussed, measles info given, talked about ratio and number of children in center. Tammy
4/24/25 - Taked about Sanitizing, Cleaning and Disinfection. Mandi

I have schedule a training at the center for April- Back to Sleep- Tummy to Play.
Let me know if you need any more information.
Have a good week!!

Tammy Merrill RN
Child Care Nurse Consultant
Jefferson County Public Health
200 W Briggs
Fairfield, IA 52556
641-472-5929 fax 641-469-3189

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Date: 03/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

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**.