Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Des Moines Christian Early Education

Provider No.: 27736

Address: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 400, Urbandale, IA, 50323

County: Polk

Director's Name: Trisha Lux/Cheryl Whitmore

On-Site Supervisor: Nikki Dudley

Phone Number: 5152522482

E-Mail: cwhitmore@dmcs.org tlux@dmcs.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/21/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/03/2025

Comments: Fire Inspections are due at least every three years, completed by Angel Perez--IA Dept of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL)

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	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		40	108	122	270
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 10-21-25. Present for the visit were the co-directors.

This center is owned and operated by Des Moines Christian School. The center is located within the Des Moines Christian School building. The new addition is where the Early Education Center is now located (east side of building) The school age programming uses the new performance hall as well as a separate school age room. There are eight enclosed rooms used for programming space. There is a secured entrance for parents to use. The center serves children from two years through school age.

The center offers full day for preschool and childcare as well as half day options. The center also provides after school programming for school age children (3:15 PM to 5:30 PM)

Trisha Lux and Cheryl Whitmore share director responsibilities. Trisha has eight prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications to be the co-director. Cheryl Whitmore is also a co-director. Cheryl has 15 prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications.

The center is using Happily Ever After curriculum with a faith based component. The classrooms were nicely organized and offer a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and learning centers. Teachers were consistently observed to be engaged in leading group activities or attending to individual needs. The children were content.

The center uses the schools application (school pass) to keep attendance and communicates with parents via email, fliers or in person.

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Des Moines Christian Early Education offers Lunch, along with morning and after noon snacks there are inline with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating.

The center has a outdoor playground that is used only for pre-school children and is enclosed for safety. There are play structures and a shed that houses outside supplies/toys. .

Transportation/Field trips: regular transportation is provided by parents; field trips--center utilizes school bus and driver

This center holds teacher staff meetings and hosts professional development days in collaboration with Child Care Resource and Referral.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This has nice sized classrooms that are stocked with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and activities.

There is very little turnover with staff and staff are very well educated and trained working well together.

Staff are very invested in the school and are caring and nurturing. The staff have received PBIS training which helps with the behaviors of children in the classrooms. The center also incorporates Conscience Discipline.

The center has a very high retention rate for children going from the preschool program into the school program; and often has a wait list for admission.

Parents report being happy and satisfied with the center.

The center has a strong partnership with the school.

The center has a secure entrance.

The preschool program collaborates with the Kindergarten teachers.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. There was at least one staff file missing a physical form. The staff files are partially kept by School Human Resources and some within the confines of the preschool.

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. One child file reviewed was missing an updated physical form.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A new two year full license is recommended.

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Des Moines Christian Early Education is in the process of constructing new and expanded programming space located within just a few miles of the current center.

Date: 10/25/2025

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**.