

Date Issued	July 21, 2026	Status	Closed
Provider Name	STEPPING STONES PRESCHOOL CENTER		
Provider ID	018042621		
Provider Address	412 SD-38, Hartford, SD 57033, USA		
Provider Contact	Melissa Atkins		

The items listed below are those that the provider was not in compliance with at the time of the inspection.

Compliance Plan Action #1

Administrative Rule:

67:42:17:37

Center and school-age programs operating outside of a school building shall follow applicable construction and fire safety requirements, as outlined in chapters 61:15:05 and 61:15:06. School-age programs operating in a school building shall follow applicable construction and fire safety requirements, as outlined in chapters 61:15:01, 61:15:02, and 61:15:07.

A family day care home must have the following fire safety measures in place:

- (1) A working smoke detector must be located on each level of the home;
- (2) A fully charged, portable fire extinguisher, with a minimum 2A rating, as identified on the extinguisher label, must be kept in or within fifteen feet of the kitchen or food preparation area;
- (3) A carbon monoxide detector must be installed, according to the manufacturer's instructions, if a fuel burning appliance is present in the home;
- (4) Each level of the home must have at least two remote exits that shall remain clear of obstructions. One of these exits must be a standard-sized door, and the other may be either a standard-sized door or an unobstructed, operable window, having at least five square feet of openable space, with a minimum width of twenty inches and a minimum height of twenty-four inches; and
- (5) Whenever a portable space heater, a wood burning stove, or a fireplace is in use, the heater, stove, or fireplace must be inaccessible to children.

Summary of Non-Compliance Finding:

At the time of the inspection, two exit lights, located near the north entryway and the toddler room exit, failed to illuminate when tested.

Corrections to be Made:

The provider will ensure that both emergency exit lights illuminate properly during testing and are maintained in working order.

Corrections Made:

Verification of compliance received.

Anticipated Completion Date:
August 10, 2026

Date Completed:
July 27, 2026

Compliance Plan Action #2

Administrative Rule:

67:42:17:44

All toxic or hazardous substances must be:

- (1) Inaccessible to children;
- (2) Used according to manufacturer's instructions;
- (3) Stored in the original or other labeled container; and
- (4) Disposed of according to manufacturer recommendations.

Bio-contaminants must be handled and disposed of properly.

Soiled diapers must be changed promptly, in a designated area, on a non-porous surface. The diaper changing area must be clean and disinfected with a sanitizing solution approved by the department. Soiled diapers must be kept in a leakproof, nonabsorbent container that is covered with a tight-fitting lid.

Summary of Non-Compliance Finding:

During the inspection, a bottle of Clorox toilet bowl cleaner was found stored in an unlocked cabinet beneath the sink in the boys' restroom.

Corrections to be Made:

The provider will ensure the Clorox toilet bowl cleaner is made inaccessible to children by either relocating it to a secure location or installing a child safety lock on the cabinet.

Corrections Made:

Verification of compliance was received.

Anticipated Completion Date:
August 10, 2026

Date Completed:
July 27, 2026

Your signature below certifies you have read and understand the non-compliance findings and agree to make corrections to be compliant with the identified administrative rules.

Melissa Atkins

Printed Name of Provider/Agency Contact



July 21, 2026

Signature of Provider/Agency Contact

Date

The Department of Social Services, Office of Licensing and Accreditation has reviewed and accepted the above plan.

Morgan Giraldo

Printed Name of DSS Staff



7/20/2026, 8:30:36 AM

Signature of DSS Staff:

July 20, 2026

Date