Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: Discoveries Learning Center - Eagle St Campus **Enrollment:** 92 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52115

Street: 541 E Eagle St **City:** Denver Iowa **Zip** 50622 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: PO Box 680, Denver, IA, 50622

Director's Name: Kathy Bohlmann, Angie Holman & Becky O'Donnell **Phone Number:** 319-406-0053

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ella Walters **E-Mail:** disc.extended.day@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit:

Licensing Visit **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 02-10-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	0	120	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-21-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-14-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/16/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Discoveries Learning Center-Eagle Street Campus. I met with Angie Holman, the co-director. She has been with the Discoveries program since August 2014. She has a BS in an unrelated field. Ms. Holman has received her National Administrator's Credential (NAC). Kathy Bohlmann is a co-director and owner. Ms. Bohlmann has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. She has previous experience as a director, is a Child Care Resource and Referral instructor and she has worked for Head Start. Ms. Bohlmann is also the director and owner of the Discoveries Learning Center-Denver Campus and the Discoveries Learning Center-Waverly Campus. Ms. Bohlmann received her National Administrator's Credential (NAC). Ella Walters is an assistant director for the program. She started with Discoveries Denver Campus in March 2023 and started working at the Eagle Street site in September 2024. Ms. Walters is in college going for a BA in elementary education. The center employs twelve staff members.

The center is in the former Denver High School building. The elementary school is also located in this building. They were given permission to open on 08/21/23. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:00 am and 3:10-5:45 pm. On Wednesdays the afternoon hours are 1:45-5:45 pm. The program serves school-age children. They will only operate on school days during the school year. When there is no school the school-age children will be cared for at Discoveries Learning Center-Denver Campus. There are 92 children enrolled. The program space has a capacity of 120 children.

The center operates out of the following rooms: there is a kindergarten room (which also serves as the morning childcare room for all ages), two first grade rooms, a second grade room and a room for third through fifth graders. There is a bonus room that is used to store snacks/storage. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. Some of the rooms are decorated with the children's art projects.

The centers observed at the center include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, arts/crafts, dramatic play, math, magnets and woodworking. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. In the room for kindergarten children, you must secure the electrical cord for the television.

I visited the program during the afternoon program. The program was in ratio. The number of children present at the program is always changing because of children arriving and leaving.

There is a phone in each room and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number and poison control's number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. There was a daily schedule available for review in every room except for one of the first grade rooms. The program is making a new schedule for this room.

There are bathrooms in the hallway. The girls' bathroom has four toilets and two sinks and the boys' bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are additional bathrooms

throughout the building the children can use.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The fire and tornado drills should be practiced on separate dates and both during the morning and afternoon hours of operation. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The childcare portion of the building is all electric, but the rest of the building does have fuel burning appliances. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in all the classrooms and in the office. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/10/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The program serves an afternoon snack. They have a two week rotation of menus. The children receive breakfast and lunch through the school once they are released from childcare. The cost of the snack is included in the tuition. There is a refrigerator in the office area and a thermometer was present. The children eat in their classrooms. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. Allergies were confidentially posted. Snacks are stored in the "bonus room". They were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. When there is no school because of weather the children bring a cold lunch from home and the center provides breakfast and an afternoon snack. If there is a late start the children are provided a morning snack. When there are professional development days, holidays and during the summer, the children will be cared for at the Denver Campus.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing table.

There is a large fenced in play area available for the children. Rubber tiles are used for fall surfacing under one piece of climbing equipment that has slides and other activities for the children. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing under additional pieces of climbing equipment that has rings, monkey bars, climbing walls, and a zipline. There is a basketball court. There is a grassy area with soccer nets. There are benches available for the children to rest. Shade is provided by trees and the building.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Walters states the program has great leadership. They have strong employees that lead both other employees and the children.

Ms. Holman states parents appreciate that their children do not have to get on a bus. The program is in the same building as the elementary school.

Ms. Holman states the staff members have good relationships with parents. They have strong communication and they know and can identify parents.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Holman and Ms. Walters state they have good communication with the school. They share with each other if a child is having a bad or good day.

The program uses the ProCare app to communicate with parents, attendance and billing.

The ISU Extension program visits the center once each month and gives the children a presentation on different topics.

Information regarding staff members is posted outside each room.

The school janitors clean the childcare floors and bathrooms for them.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Angie Holman as a co-director for the program.

An administrative change is being made to name Becky O'Donnell to be a co-director and Ella Walters as the on-site supervisor.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*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.