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

Name of Center: ACPC-Main Center **Enrollment:** 102 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16803

Street: 920 Carroll Ave **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 920 Carroll Ave, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Melissa Sanow **Phone Number:** 515-233-2901

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brittney Dencklau **E-Mail:** director@acpc-childcare.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-11-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-07-2022

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	12	28	110	40	190
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 04-25-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 4/11/23. The Director was present throughout the visit.

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

The ACPC Child Care Program first started in 1968 and had always been in a church. In 2013 ACPC bought an empty neighborhood school building and after much updating, the first day for children to attend was 12-09-13. They now serve children ages 12 months up to preschool age, and will have school age children at times during the summer for overflow from the school sites. Once children become school age they may attend one of the school site programs also operated by this organization.

The hours of operation are 7:00 am-6:00 pm.

Melissa (Missy) Sanow is the director of this program, starting in October of 2022. Missy has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and twenty prior years of experience in childcare settings, including prior director experience. Brittney Dencklau became the on-site supervisor in March of 2023. Brittney has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and 14 prior years of experience at ACPC as a lead teacher. Both meet the points required for their positions.

There are eight classrooms located in two pods that are located at opposite ends of the building. They also have the standard full size school kitchen, plus an additional smaller kitchen that has space for child size tables so the children can do non-cooking food activities. The center is adding the conference room space, which has a capacity for 19 children, and the lunchroom space, which has a capacity for 21 children, for school age children. School age children will use these spaces in the summer or when school is not in session to assist with overflow at the school sites. This increases the capacity to 190.

There is also an indoor gymnasium area that is used when the children cannot go outdoors to play.

The north pod is used for the younger children. There are four classrooms and they all have sinks in the room. Three have toilets in the classrooms. There are boys and girls bathrooms in the hallway outside the pod.

The capacity for the two classrooms on the west side is for 21 children in each room. The capacity for the two classrooms on the east side of the building is for 22 children.

The south pod is used for the older preschool age children. There are four classrooms, and they all have sinks in them. There are jack and jill bathrooms between the classrooms. Three of the rooms have space for 21 children. The classroom on the southeast side has space for 20 children.

The center hopes to open the 4th classroom on the north side of the building by September of 2023 and this classroom will

house young infants . Currently, this room is not being used for programming space.

The center uses Teaching Strategies Gold with the Creative Curriculum, as well as an emotional and social component to the curriculum.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has strong ties with the community and receives community support. The center has a good reputation and there is a waiting list for children to enroll.

The staff are invested in the center and committed to providing quality care. The quality of teachers is high and they take ownership and pride in their classrooms.

The center recently celebrated their 55th anniversary providing childcare.

The center has strong partnerships in the community, including United Way, the University, Raising Readers program, the school district and AEA.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center is able to employ students from the local University and this brings a nice mix of staff with longevity and staff in the academic culture.

The center communicates well with families and has strong relationships with their families.

The rooms have a good arrangement of centers and allow for easy movement of the children.

The staff are trained in PBIS.

The center participates in the TEACH program.

The center received STEM grants that are agriculturally based.

The center has strong support from their board, the board wants what is best for the center and for the teachers and families. The board supports the teachers.

The center is still doing well despite all of the stress and hardships of the pandemic.

The center tries to have more staff in a classroom than what is required by regulations for ratio.

The center is having the library remolded and the younger infant classroom is being remolded. The center will be putting in a food pantry for families.

The center got two new activity buses.

The center was able to get some new furniture and toys in the classrooms and will be putting in new flooring.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control. Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained .Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
One staff file reviewed did not have Essentials training completed within the first three months of employment, this was completed 5 months after employment.

109.9(1)d: 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.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff file reviewed did not have a pre-employment physical exam report completed within 6 months prior to hire, this was completed one year after hire.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
A slide was in the indoor gym that is over 18 inches tall, adequate ASTM 1292 surfacing was not placed around the slide.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The center completed radon testing in April of 2022 and all rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines. The center is on the food program.

Discussion took place regarding the new vans and putting up no smoking signs.

The slide was removed from the indoor gym.

The center removed the structure on the toddler outdoor playground area and this area is now a safe space for younger infants. The center added children age 12 months up to 18 months in March of this year, and will be adding children age 6 weeks to 12 months around September of this year, when the infant room is completed.

*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.