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

Name of Center: Mt. Pleasant Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 48 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51508

Street: 304 W. Washington St **City:** Mt. Pleasant Iowa **Zip** 52641 **County:** Henry

Mailing Address: 304 W Washington ST, Mount Pleasant, IA, 52641

Director's Name: Cairece Allen **Phone Number:** 319-348-1984

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kaela Bass **E-Mail:** mpchildcare9@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-07-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-25-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-02-2021

Comments : conducted by SFM Amy Fratzke due every 3 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	16	11	23	12	62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 02-24-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Mount Pleasant ChildCare Center opened in July 2021. It is located on the edge of downtown Mt. Pleasant in a business/ housing district. The center is housed in a one story former commercial building on a busy street in Mt. Pleasant. The Director originally hired for this position is no longer with the program. The second director hired for this program resigned and her last day was June 17th, 2022. At that time the center on-site Supervisor, Cairece Allen, was appointed as the interim Director until the Board of Directors is able to hire another Director. She was hired in August 2022 as the full time Director. Director Allen has been employed at the center since it's inception as staff and then On Site Supervisor. Director Allen holds a BA in Criminal Justice and over 70 hours of child care related professional development training. She has 9 years of experience in child care. Kaela Bass was appointed on site supervisor. Since the visit she has resigned. The center will be appointing a new OSS. This facility offers full day child care. It is governed by a Board of Directors. The Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance supports this center and provides guidance.

Two unannounced licensing visits were made to the center in April 2024. All program areas were observed during the visits. Frequent email and phone consultation has occurred the past three years since the center opened. This year's visit was conducted on February 7, 2025 and was unannounced. All program areas were observed at that time.

Center Nutrition:

The center has a large kitchen. They participate in the CACFP program. Menus are available and meet requirements. Food storage met safe food storage guidelines. No expired food items were expired or stored on the floor. Each refrigeration and freezer unit contained thermometers. All opened food items or liquids were stored in sealed bags or containers. An OSS, or the Director should visit each classroom and monitor and/or trains staff on CACFP. Food allergies are posted. Diet modification forms and allergy action plans are present on all children with allergies. We discussed snacks require two components which are now being served. This is an improvement.

Center Health and Safety:

Primary care groups are implemented in each classroom. Ratio was met and maintained throughout the visit. Staff should know how many children they were supervising. A camera system is utilized.

The program contains separate rooms for infants, toddler, twos, threes and fours. Restrooms are in a central location in the middle of the building. It contains 6 toilets. The center is in compliance with the rule of 1 restroom for every 15 children counted in capacity. Each center room has a capacity sign so staff know how many children can be present in each room at one time. The center contains a moderate sized kitchen and office.

Rooms may be modified/switched or repurposed to fit different ages/needs of children and center growth in the future. CCNC or CCR&R should be consulted in these matters as well as HHS.

Radon testing is up to date. It is required every 5 years. Testing should be conducted in the winter months when the ground

is frozen. The center is compliant with UL approved plug in carbon monoxide detectors on opposite ends of the building. The center does contain fuel burning appliances. An approved fuel burning appliances inspection is due annually. An approved inspection was present. Tornado and fire drills were observed.

Emergency medication as well as regular medication had pharmacy labels intact. Storage and documentation for such met rule. First Aid kits are inaccessible to children and contain products sufficient to administer first aid. Kits are taken outdoors with classrooms. CCNC Krana has been working with the facility on a regular basis since (August 2022) to secure the necessary documentation so that staff know how to respond in a health emergency. CCNC Krana covered special health plans and allergy action plans in May 2023 and again in 2024.

The restroom has ventilation. Capacity for restrooms 1:15, classroom space (35 square feet of useable floor space per child) and outdoor play are (75 square feet of useable floor space) a are met. Capacity and ratio signs are posted in each room. We discussed trash cans (especially those with food or soiled diapers) must have lids.

All rooms should implement safe supervision practices to ensure careful supervision of each child is achieved at all times. The center has a floater present when available to ensure ratio and supervision are being met at all times.

Coaching, instruction and services have been provided to the center on Safe Sleep regarding all matters of Safe Sleep. An infant was asleep in a seat during this visit. A Safe Sleep referral was made to CCR&R in both 2023 and 2024 regarding swaddling and infants sleeping in seats. Safe Sleep was not an issue during the 2025 visit.

Center Outdoor Play Area:

The center has an L shaped play area for older children on the side and back of the building. The center also has a separate play area for toddlers and infants on the side of the building. The Child Care Weather Watch is consulted when weather conditions are questionable for outdoor play. The outdoor play inspection should be conducted and documented monthly. First aid kits and emergency medications are taken outdoors.

Center Field Trips/Transportation:

Transportation and field trips are not provided by the center.

Center Administration:

Child files are reviewed annually including physicals, immunization and annual updates including emergency contacts, medical and dental information, pick up and field trip authorizations. Allergy Action plans will be sent home with parents of every child that had allergies marked on physicals. The Public Health nurse conducts an immunization annually.

Staff files are reviewed annually including SING checks (every 2 years), fingerprints (every 4 years). Prior to staff starting on the floor fingerprints are obtained and sent off. During the interim period staff are able to get training hours and perform other duties in the center. Staff are up to date on professional development hours, CPR/1st Aid training (all but 2), Mandatory Reporter training, and physicals. In an effort to keep updates current CCR&R and IDPH have been assisting the Director and OSS with ongoing tracking of requirements.

Discipline and behavior policies are clearly defined. The Director is currently working with CCR&R on editing some policies.

Curriculum or program structure developmentally appropriate and activities designed to the developmental level/needs of children served. Since inception curriculum has been an ongoing work, due to staff turnover and consistency. Creative Curriculum is utilized in each classroom. Lesson plans should be completed for the week ahead. A designated staff member should work with the staff on the lesson plans. CCR&R Consultant Jodi Norton has been providing consultation on this matter to the center the few past year and prior to opening. The Director will ensure curriculum is implemented daily. This was also cited during the July visit but continued to be an issue in August. The Director indicated on 8/12/22 staff are following schedules and utilizing curriculum daily. The center has removed broken toys, etc. to reduce clutter so they can focus on providing age-appropriate curriculum. Jodi Norton visited again on 11/22/22 and helped staff with this process. She continues to do so in 2023 and 2024 citing improvements with curriculum implementation, schedules and routines.

HHS encouraged the center to have all staff take trainings prior to being in ratio in the rooms. The Director reports all staff job shadow prior to be in ratio in the rooms. The Director has an open-door policy encouraging staff to approach her with potential issues so they can be immediately addressed. A points system is in place for employees regarding following center policy and DHS rules. Clear leadership roles have been assigned, and staff are now aware of the chain of command. The Director is present on a daily basis and takes an active role in the center. CCR&R and HHS sent the new Director informational videos on the IPOWER system on 6/21/22.

All required postings are present such as No Smoking signage, HHS Licensing Consultant contact information, the Center License, and Mandatory Reporter posting.

Administration trains each staff on the center Emergency Preparedness Plan annually. Staff sign and date acknowledgement of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center violations have decreased.

The center is actively collaborating with the area CCNC and CCR&R.

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

1. 109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year. The Director agreed to ensure all drills were being conducted and documented.

2. 109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. The Director agreed to ensure all inspections were being conducted and documented.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period. In addition, if a center is issued a license indicating it is fully in compliance with licensing requirements, but at a later date within the license period fails to be in compliance, the Department may reduce a license to a provisional status. Upon correction of the deficiencies and approval by the child care consultant, the provisional license may be upgraded to a full license.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information. Consultant Norton provided consultation to Mt Pleasant CC 44 times in the last calendar year in person, phone, text, and video call around licensing, supervision, health and safety, curriculum, schedules, behavior, quality initiatives. The program has recently (this week) submitted their IQ4K Level 1 application, has been added to Lindsey Koopman's CACFP roster and I delivered a 4-seat stroller to make moving infants around the program safer. Cairece has shown great growth in her knowledge and willingness of the regulations and reaches out regularly with questions.

IHHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant with IDPH. 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. CCNC Mandi Lauderman Nurse Consultants (Iowa Department of Public Health) serves as CCNC for this center. The center is responsible for contacting CCNC Krana for consultation regarding health and safety issues such as hand washing, outdoor play area regulations, toppling or tipping hazards, etc....

CCNC Krana has provided the following the past year: MPCC-
2/5/24- Onsite visit worked with staff on child with behavioral issues
3/1/24- Medication Class information given
3/5/04- Guidance on illness and medication policy
4/16/24- guidance on sever weather
4/29/24- immunization record request
5/21/24- medication class question
5/22/24- child with special needs discussed
5/23/24- Onsite visit to test out 5 providers on Medication Administration
6/10/24,6/11/24,6/12/24- worked with center and family with a child with special needs
6/17/24- medication issue
6/13/24- Onsite Visit tested out 1 provider on Medication Administration and child with special needs addresses

7/22/24- information given on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of surfaces
7/26/24- Onsite visit Safe Sleep Training provided
9/24/24- question about pink eye
9/25/24- immunization request
9/26/24- Onsite visit immunization audit completed
10/2/24- IEP reviewed for child
10/3/24, 10/8/24- Immunization request
10/9/24- guidance on a newborn with fever
10/16/24- immunization request
11/4/24- Medication Policy guidance
11/7/24, 11/15/24-Immunization request
12/9/24- CPR class set up with Amy Hayes CCNC for Lee County
12/16/24- Guidance on Hand, Foot and Mouth
12/26/24-Onsite visit, General visit to see how things were going
12/27/24- Immunization request

*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.