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

Name of Center: ChildServe Johnston Day Health Center **Enrollment:** 13 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 44758

Street: 5406 Merle Hay Rd **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5406 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Kara Pick **Phone Number:** 515-727-0254

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** KaraPic@childserve.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-21-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-09-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-24-2022

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: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			27		27
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

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

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-22-2022

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 12/21/22. The director, Kara Pick, and the site manager/supervisor, Autumn Karmia, were present during 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 playground was snow covered.

ChildServe Johnston Day Health opened in May 2015. This center is located within ChildServe's main campus. This site is specifically designed for children diagnosed with Autism, ages two to kindergarten age. There are three rooms that are used for programming: room 618, room 620, room 621. The program also has access to use two gyms. The three programming rooms each have a capacity of 9, which puts the total capacity for the center at 27. The children are in and out of the rooms for therapy. The center has a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for the center's daily functions, within the ChildServe's process manual. Barb Williams is the Service Manager. Kara Pick is the Director, starting in this role in August of 2020. Kara has a Master's degree in Social Work and has worked at ChildServe as a lead teacher for over two years Kara meets qualifications for this role.

The center uses the STAR program for curriculum as well as providing services to meet individual goals for each child under each child's own individualized care plan.

The center hours are 7:30 am to 5:30 pm M-Th and 7:30 am to 5:00 pm on Friday.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The center continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19. ChildServe has a Covid response team that assists with mitigation and guidance when there is a positive case. Enrollment is a little lower than normal due to staffing shortages.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center provides a unique child care opportunity for children with Autism. Each child is assigned an RN Care Coordinator who manages the child's Plan of Care. Staff receive specific training to assist them in providing comprehensive care to children being served at this center. Children are afforded large motor play on a daily basis through the use of the playground or gyms.

Each child attending this program receives individualized care; receiving speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. There is much collaboration between the departments and the children receive the different areas of therapy at the center. The children also receive one on one teaching time, using the Star curriculum, designed for children with Autism. The center sees great outcomes with the children and progress. The center is able to provide early intervention for the children to assist them in being ready for kindergarten. Some of the children are able to start kindergarten in regular classrooms with no IEP in place.

The center provides families with a program called Project Impact. This program teaches families how to work with their children on language, social skills and play skills. This is a 12 week course for the families that is optional.

The center continues to provide a Behavioral Health program.

The center assists families with resources in the community.

The center continues to use ABA services, which is Applied Behavioral Analysis. This program provides intensive therapy and services.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter to families as well as the community.

The center has a graduation ceremony in August for the children and families. This has looked different during the pandemic.

The center has a higher ratio of staff to children than is required by licensing.

The center used the Tadpoles App which allows for real time contact with families and immediate communication.

Families give positive feedback in surveys sent to families; the families are happy with the program.

The program created a new Specialist Position for staff to achieve, this is a title and certification for staff who have worked at the center for at least a year. They receive extra training and a pay increase; this has helped with retention of staff.

The program will be increasing wages for staff.

The program has had good media spotlights for their services.

New flooring was installed in all three classrooms.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The last radon test was completed in November of 2022 and the levels fell below the cutoff of 4.0.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The center has an electric furnace and is not required to conduct annual furnace testing.

Discussion took place regarding the outside playground area. The facilities manager has taken measurements for the playground and the program is raising money to put in new surfacing, looking at poured in place surfacing. A new shade structure was installed, however the covering has been on backorder.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.