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

Name of Center: Ringgold County Child Care/Family Resource Center **Enrollment:** 51 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 65

Street: 302 N Lincoln **City:** Mount Ayr Iowa **Zip** 50854 **County:** Ringgold

Mailing Address: 302 N Lincoln, Mount Ayr, IA, 50854

Director's Name: Rachel Worthington **Phone Number:** 641-464-3385

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** frcdaycare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-22-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **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: 02-22-2022

Comments :

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 X Other 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	8	8	67	20	103
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 07-10-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Family Resource Center on 4-22-2024. Family Resource Center is community owned and is run by the board of directors. The center is located next to the Mt. Ayr Elementary School in a residential area of the community of Mt. Ayr. The program is located in a one story structure with a basement. Rachel Worthington is the director, she has worked at the center since August 2016 and became the director in August 2021. I met with Rachel during my licensing visit.
There are 51 children enrolled.
The Center Mission Statement is: The Family Resource Center will be a place in which children are safe and happy, and in which each child will flourish. The Center will provide numerous opportunities for children to experience wonder, pleasure, and delight. The rooms and playground will facilitate children "doing for themselves". Parents will feel confident and secure leaving their children at the center.

Services are offered to infants to school age children from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. The center provides before and after school programing one day a week during the school year because the elementary school has a before and after school program that operates under the Department of Education.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and is well maintained. All program rooms were in ratio. Each room has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were observed participating in a variety of activities. The staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The Procare child care app is used for daily sheets, communication with parents and sending pictures. The daily sheets looked good.
Three program rooms didn't have lesson plans; mobile infant room, two to three year old room and the three to four year old room wrap around room downstairs - they also needed a daily schedule. The lead teachers for each room are responsible for developing the lesson/activities. Please train staff on completing lesson plans/activities and Rachel needs to review them weekly. The center uses Creative Curriculum, High Reach, Al's Pals, and Handwriting Without Tears. Preschool children work toward mastery of the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. Children are also provided opportunities to develop listening, social, leadership, motor and safety skills. Preschool instruction is designed around center-based interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, literacy, computers, math, science, manipulatives, art, and sand and water. Parent teacher conferences are held - progress and goals are discussed. The program rooms have monthly themes such as farm, apples, and carnival with a color, shape, and vocabulary words.
The center focuses on literacy and participates in state and national initiatives which promote a love of reading.
In the six week to two year old room staff weren't washing children's hands after diaper changing. Please train staff on diaper changing and hand washing procedures. Children's hands must be washed with soap and water after diaper changing.
A staff person stepped over a gate in this room, this is a health and safety hazard as they could fall and hurt themselves or hurt a child. Please train staff and parents to not step over gates, you may want to consider posting a sign.
Please determine if the diaper changing table in the 2 to 3 year old room has a porous or non porous surface. If it has a porous surface a mat on the diaper changing table is required.
A weekly newsletter is provided to the families.
Rachel has received consultation and training from Brenda Comber, the child care nurse consultant and Child Care

Resource and Referral.

Nutrition:
The center participates in the federal food program. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are prepared on site. The menus are on a rotation - menus were posted. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and Safety:
The center has medication management procedures and utilize the medication log.
Five radon tests were completed in May 2022 , all tests were under the required 4.0 pCi/L. Please refer to your handbook for radon information and the frequency of radon testing requirements as this has changed. The center has all electric appliances. The center is on Mt. Ayr city water therefore water analysis is not required.
Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly.

Playground:
The center has different outdoor play areas for the age groups of children. All areas are fenced and have a great variety of equipment i.e. small climbing piece with a slide, a large piece of equipment that has three slides, and a bridge, tunnel, dramatic play, sand box, benches and the surfacing is rubber square pads, riding toys, and a variety of outdoor toys available. There is a sun shade area, grass area and cement pad areas for playing. Infant/mobile infants have an area with a sensory table, umbrella and a garden area.
Monthly playground inspections are documented.
A DEKKO grant was received for the playground.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide transportation services. The center staff walk to the elementary school and escort the children back to the center before and after school. Walking field trips are taken throughout the year. A first aid kit and emergency contact numbers are taken on walks.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in excellent order.
Child files were read and were in excellent order.
The center had the required policies and procedures.
Rachel has staff meetings on a regular basis, she interacts with staff on a daily basis. It is difficult to find staff to hire and Rachel is in ratio in program rooms as needed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Rachel is confident as the director, she is organized, creative and enthusiastic about the center.
Staff has excellent interactions with the children, they are positive and involved in programming.
The center is a wonderful resource for the community.
The center has their NAC - National Administrator Credential.
Rachel will be applying for the IQ4K program.
Some staff have excellent longevity and some staff have their CDA's.

The center has participated in a variety of programs; a pilot program for physical activity and nutrition - Nap Sacc, A guided growth business program through First Children's Finance and Ag in the Classroom - it provides cultural equipment and supplies for the program rooms.
A variety of grants have been received for equipment, staff bonus etc.
Fundraisers are held throughout the year.

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

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
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109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and

outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Three program rooms didn't have lesson plans; mobile infant room, two to three year old room and the three to four year old room downstairs - they also needed a daily schedule. The lead teachers for each room are responsible for developing the lesson/activities. Please train staff on completing lesson plans/activities and Rachel needs to review them weekly.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 3-1-2023 to 3-1-2025.
Off year licensing visit 4-22-2024.

*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.