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

Name of Center: Greater Connections Childhood Development Center **Enrollment:** 174 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52225

Street: 1405 N Lincoln ST **City:** Creston Iowa **Zip** 50801 **County:** Union

Mailing Address: 1405 N Lincoln ST, Creston, IA, 50801

Director's Name: Melissa Zellmer **Phone Number:** 641-782-7117

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sara Bovaird **E-Mail:** melissa.zellmer@greaterconnections.org

Date(s) of Visit: 05-01-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-05-2023

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 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	40	52	56	30	178
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 06-24-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Greater Connections Childhood Development Center opened on 8-1-2023. The building is owned by the hospital, and is run by a board. I Think I Can Child Care and I Think I Can Before and After School Program closed both locations and are now located at Greater Connections Childhood Development Center.
Melissa Zellmer is the director, and she was the Director at the I Think I Can centers. Sara Bovaird is the on-site supervisor. There are 174 children enrolled.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and all the rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate furnishings, and toys. Grants have been received for equipment for the rooms.
There are fourteen program room, thirteen room were being used (a two year old room wasn't being used at the time of my visit). Two infant rooms, transition room, two one year old rooms, multipurpose room, three - two year old rooms, two three year old rooms, one four year old room, two school age rooms. There is also a multipurpose room. There is a waiting list for the infant/one year old room. There are car seat cubbies that are very convenient for parents. The school age rooms are the tornado shelter. The daily sheets looked good. The staff in each program room prepare the lesson plans/activities. The center also utilizes gym and pool for swimming lessons - a local business paid the centers membership fee.
All occupied program rooms were observed and were in ratio. Many of the program rooms were observed during nap time. A child's hands weren't washed after diaper changing in the infant room, diaper changing wipes can't be used in place of hand washing with soap and water. If the diaper changing table has a porous surface you will need a mat on the diaper changing table. The dwell time for the disinfecting product wasn't followed. Please review and train staff on the diaper changing and hand washing procedure. Also train the staff on the sanitizing and disinfecting products that are used and the dwell times. Make sure you are using the three step bottle procedure for both sanitizing and disinfecting 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water you will need to refer to the specific bottle of bleach you are using for mixing instructions, and bleach water needs mixed daily. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children.

Nutrition:
The center has a wonderful kitchen. During the school year the local school prepares and delivers the breakfast and lunch and the center prepares the daily snack. Cindy is the cook, she previously worked at I think I Can for over twenty years. Cindy prepares the meals in the summer. Menus were posted. The center participates in the federal food program. The kitchen is clean and proper food storage was observed.

Health and Safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented.
Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. Some staff have taken the medication management training class. The center uses bleach/water for sanitizing and disinfecting. The three step bottles are used 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Bleach water for sanitizing and disinfecting.
Radon testing is needed. Please email me the test results from your radon testing. Radon testing should be done in each

program room and the test results must be under a 4.0 pCi/L. Please check with your local health department for test kits, the cost of the kits should be around $15.00 and should include the test reading. The building has all electric appliances. Maintenance issues are taken care of by the hospital maintenance staff.

Playground:
The children have fun in the nature outdoor classroom. There are many fun features i.e. mud kitchen. The school age children to to the school playground for now. There is also a grass area, toys are also taken outside. Gates are being installed to the fencing. Grants have been received for sun shades for the playground areas.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide transportation services. The school bus provides transportation services. School age children take field trips.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in good order. There are 41employees. Many lead staff are getting their CDA's and are participating in the TEACH/WAGES program.
Child files were read and were in good order.
Melissa has staff monthly staff meetings.
The Brightwheel child care app is used, they are going to try the Playground child are app.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Your center is a wonderful resource for the community. The staff are very excited and proud of the center. Melissa is very enthusiastic and supportive of the staff. Staff have excellent interactions with the children.
Several staff are getting their CDA's and are participating in the TEACH/WAGES program.
The board is very supportive.
Businesses in the community are supportive to the center.
The center is working on applying for IQ4K.
Grants have been received for equipment i.e. sun shades for the playground, staff bonuses etc.

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.
A child's hands weren't washed after diaper changing in the infant room, diaper changing wipes can't be used in place of hand washing with soap and water. If the diaper changing table has a porous surface you will need a mat on the diaper changing table. The dwell time for the disinfecting product wasn't followed. Please review and train staff on the diaper changing and hand washing procedure. Also training the staff on the sanitizing and disinfecting products that are used and the dwell times. Make sure you are using the three step bottle procedure for both sanitizing and disinfecting 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water you will need to refer to the specific bottle of bleach you are using for mixing instructions, and bleach water needs mixed daily.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 8-1-2023 to 8-1-2025.
Off year licensing visit 5-1-2024.

*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.