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

Name of Center: Pekin Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 150 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 23277

Street: 1062 Birch Ave **City:** Packwood Iowa **Zip** 52580 **County:** Jefferson

Mailing Address: 1062 Birch Ave, Packwood, IA, 52580

Director's Name: Ashley Sieren **Phone Number:** 319-695-5127

On-Site Supervisor(s): Gina Swearingen, Cheryl Deutschle **E-Mail:** ashley.sieren@pekincsd.org

Date(s) of Visit: 05-18-2023

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:** 03-16-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-20-2021

Comments : completed by State Fire Marshall 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 X Other NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care X 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	36	10	40	50	136
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 06-05-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Pekin Child Care Center has been in operation since 1992. They provide traditional child care, before and after school care, and preschool for approximately 150 children each year. The building is a single story sole occupancy next to an elementary/junior high/high school located in rural Packwood. A modular building has been added to the property which now houses infants only. Director Ashley Sieren is the new Director as of June 2022. She has an AA in Early Childhood Education from Indian Hills Community College and 20 years experience in 2 rooms of the childcare prior to accepting the Director position. Gina Swearingen has been the director since the center's opening and is now the On Site Supervisor. Ms. Swearingen has 29 years of experience and a BS in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood Endorsement. Teresa Hixson, also fills in as onsite supervisor has 22 years at the center with a Child Care Technical certificate. Cheryl Deutschle was appointed as an additional OSS in 2021. I spoke with OSS Deutschle on 7/21/22 regarding progress on Safe Sleep issues.

The program serves infant- school age children. The center offers 3 classes of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. The center follows school district schedules with daycare available on school in-service days.

Approx. 30 infant/toddlers, 50 daycare, 40 preschooler, and 40 before/after school age enrolled at the center each year.

On 5/18/2023 all program space was observed on an unannounced licensing visit. The visit consisted of classroom and outdoor play area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Center Nutrition:

The center kitchen was clean the day of the visit. Food was stored appropriately. Open food was in sealed containers. No expired food was noted. No food was stored on the floor. Thermometers are present in the freezer and refrigerator. Center menus indicate CACFP requirements are not being met. The Director is willing to learn CACFP requirements. However, food is provided by the school. Some school food requirements differ from CACFP requirements for childcare.

Center Health and Safety:

A new building was added in 2018 serving infants ages 0-1. This building is set up to accommodate infants and may change year to year based on center needs. The day of the visit Safe Sleep practices were not being followed. A young infant was asleep in a swing and another infant had a blanket in the crib. The Director also witnessed this. All staff have had Safe Sleep training.

Supervision and ratios were reviewed during the visit. In 2019 I asked the center to refine schedules, routines and curriculum so that transitions and other parts of the day are not chaotic. Staff should be assigned specific children to supervise so that they are reasonably able to know the names and number of children assigned to their care. This has been discussed many times and for the past several years. The 2-5 year old childcare room is now divided in two. This was done

to comply with Covid restrictions. Twos and younger three year old children are on one side of the room and chidden ages 3-5 on the other side. Staff and administration report this arrangement works better than the open space.

Adding a school age room will help to break up ages of children together at day's end. The center applied for financing so that a school age area may be added. CCR&R are available for consultation on these issues.

Mandi Lauderman CCNC with Iowa Department of Publics Health performed Medications Administration training for the center onsite in March 2022. Medications have pharmacy labels intact and are kept out of the reach of children.

First aid kits are present and contain items to administer basic First Aid.

Radon testing should be conducted in winter months when the ground is frozen. It is due every two years. The center has conducted testing within the past 2 years with a reading below 4 pci/L.. The center does not contain fuel burning appliances. If they are added a fuel burning appliance inspection is required annually. The center contains carbon monoxide detectors. Ventilation and lighting is adequate.

We reviewed tornado and fire drills. These have not been documented on a monthly basis but the Director agrees to resume drills and ensure documentation is present.

Center Outdoor Play Area:

A small playhouse is present in the preschool age play area. Staff sit right beside the play house in the door way when children are playing inside the house. First aid kits are taken outdoors, as well as emergency medications. They are planning on adding fencing in the grassy area so an additional outdoor play space can be added.

Playground inspections should be performed and documented monthly. Staff utilize the Child Care Weather Watch to determine if outdoor play is suitable in varying weather conditions. If weather conditions meet standards children should be outdoors playing. CCNC Mandi Lauderman can provide more information on this topic.

The center added a grass outdoor play for children of all ages this past year. It is fenced and has natural shade.

Center Field Trips:

The center goes to Richland library for field trips for school age kids. The school provides the transportation on a school bus. All students attending have signed field trip authorizations. Emergency contacts and medication as well as a First Aid kits are taken on each trip. Field trip ratios are followed. Classes sometimes go on walks around school campus, which is not considered a true field tip. Community members come to the center for presentations as well.

Center Administration:

Currently Cheryl and Gina are working on lesson plans for the summer.

All required postings were present including Mandatory Reporter information, DHS Center License, DHS Center Consultant Contact information and No Smoking signage. The center has a tracking system for staff and child files. They have less turnover than other centers. Administration feels this is due to center location.

Staff and child files are reviewed annually. Administration keeps detailed staff and child tracking sheets.

Administration is working with parents to secure updated child physicals. All children have immunization certificates. Allergy action plans have been sent home with parents of children with allergies. Children have signed field trip authorizations and have annual updates on pick up authorizations, emergency contacts and dental and medical information.

Two new staff did not have fingerprints. These are being sent off on 6/5/23. Professional Development training (Essentials), CPR/1st Aid, Universal Precautions, staff physicals, fingerprints and SING checks are tracked and monitored by Ashley.

All staff have been trained on the Emergency Preparedness Plan. They have signed and dated acknowledgement of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Credentials earned: 4 QRS level.

Four staff from the program are participating in the WAGES program.

Iowa IQPPS rates the facility.

Five members on a parent advisory board meet 4 times a year and help govern the center.

The center provides vision screening services to the children in cooperation with the local Lions Club.

The center provides hearing screening services to the children in cooperation with the local AEA.

The center has been working with IDPH CCNC Mandi Lauderman. She conducted a hand washing training in December 2019.

A new sun shade was added to the toddler area outdoors 2 years ago.

The center has an Emergency Preparedness Kit.

New hanging cabinetry was added to the preschool room this year to assist with storage issues.

The program added a new parking lot added last year.

The center bolted or anchored cabinetry and other potential toppling hazards to the wall per DHS recommendation.

The center sent out parents surveys this past year.

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

1. 109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. Two staff needed fingerprints when the visit was conducted. Fingerprints will be sent on 6/5/23.

2. 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: 13

The Director reported two parents have turned in physicals since the DHS visit in May.

3. 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. Drills were missed from January until the visit occurred. Drills have resumed per the Director on 6/5/23.

4. 109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Some items served do not qualify for CACFP. The Director indicated some assistance from CCR&R might be beneficial in this area.

5. 109.9(2)g: Any child with allergies, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises. An infant needed an allergy action plan on file. I phoned Jefferson County Public Health CCNC on 6/5/23 to ensure the center had assistance with this issue. The Director sent the plan to parents again, but it has not yet returned with a physician signature.

A referral was made to CCR&R on these issues on 6/5/23.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations have been corrected. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The center may reach out to CCR&R Consultant Malia Love or Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman at any time for consultation.

Child Care Resource & Referral offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns,

room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Consultant Love met with the new Director in May 2022 to discuss general functioning of the center, IPOWER, and what to look for going into the next school year. She contacted the Director after my visit to assist her with violation correction. She visited the program twice this past year.

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 Lauderman conducted an Injury Prevention Checklist. The center has followed all recommendations. CCNC Lauderman conducted safety training at the center last year. She visited twice this past year.

HHS recommends centers utilize IDPH and CCR&R services. The center is already actively involved with both Child Care Resource & Referral and Child Care Nurse Consultant Malia Love and with the Iowa Department of Public Health Mandi Lauderman working on IQ4K.

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*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.