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

Name of Center: Young-Uns Preschool & Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 312 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19238

Street: 3375 Kennedy Circle **City:** Dubuque Iowa **Zip** 52002 **County:** Dubuque

Mailing Address: 3375 Kennedy Circle, Dubuque, IA, 52002

Director's Name: Deb McDonnell/Barb Weber **Phone Number:** 563-584-0845

On-Site Supervisor(s): Samantha McDonnell **E-Mail:** barbweber25@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-05-2025

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:** 03-04-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-01-2024

Comments : Fire inspection approving new building 1/24/25.

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: 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	44	26	171	112	353
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 05-16-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 5/5/25. Present were the co-owners/co-directors of the center, Debra McDonnell and Barbara Weber along with other staff. The center is for profit. The building was built as a child care center and opened in May 2007 to combine two locations previously owned by the family. It is noted that the center director, Deb, accompanied the licensing consultant throughout most of the visit. The center does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool program.

The main center building consists of a main and lower level with several program rooms located on each floor. The center also occupies a portion of a separate building (“Hillcrest building”) that is on property adjacent to the main center property and has obtained additional space in that building to add six rooms since the last licensing visit. The main center building provides care for children age infant through school age. The Hillcrest building provides care for children age four through school age.

Program rooms and materials are generally well maintained and organized. Rooms are generally abundantly stocked with age appropriate furniture and accessible materials to support program needs. All program space was observed. All program rooms have restroom areas adjacent to the room. Most of the rooms also include hand washing sink(s) within the program rooms. The rooms where the majority of diapering occurs also have diaper station(s) and hand washing sinks within the program room.

The center serves morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack all prepared in the kitchen on site by the kitchen staff. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The kitchen area continues to be clean and and highly organized. The lead cook staff are ServSafe certified.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owners/directors are experienced in child care and have an obvious interest in the continued success of the center. The center has achieved level two IQ4K rating through 4/30/27. The staff were once again observed to be highly engaged with the children in activities throughout the center. The center is bright and nicely decorated throughout with displays of the children's projects. The center has a large supply of books. Program rooms include many postings at child level throughout the center. Using a grant they were awarded, the center is working to build their own "lending library" for staff to borrow materials to support their program activities since the AEA program is no longer as available. Daily activities are communicated to all parents except those of school age children through the online application the center uses. The center director states this center continues to participate in the Program Wide PBIS program and receives grant money associated with their participation in this activity. Licensing documentation and staff and child files continue to be highly organized.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

The individual room capacities remain as follows:

Main building, main level:
Chicks = 8 children (CRIBS)
Koalas = 8 children (CRIBS)
Panda = 8 children
Owl = 11 children
Grizzly = 9 children
Polar Bears = 8 children
Chimps = 12 children
Monkeys = 12 children

Main building, lower level:
Kangaroos = 16 children
Lions = 16 children
Tigers = 16 children
Giraffes = 16 children
Camels = 20 children

Building Two:
Dolphins = 20 children
Jellyfish = 23 children
Stingrays = 18 children
Turtles = 15 children

Building Three (new building):
Bumblebees = 21 children
Monarchs = 20 children
Fireflies = 20 children
Dragonflies = 20 children
Beetles = 17 children
Crickets = 19 children

The "Beehive room" is an additional room in building three used as multi-purpose space and, therefore, is not included in the license capacity for the center. It can have a maximum of 41 children when used as a multi-purpose room.

1. Dragonfly room needs to post the school age activity plan.
2. Ensure all exit doors/pathways are free and clear and are not blocked by any items on either side.
3. Improve cot spacing at rest time as observed in chimp room. At least two feet is required between cots. Ensure cots never block any exit pathways.
4. Improve crib spacing as observed in koala and chicks rooms.
5. Ensure spray bottles are properly labeled with contents, mix ratio, and location of use.
6. Refrigerator thermometers are needed for camel and koala rooms. Monitor for proper functioning at 35F or below for safe food storage.

The center will continue with a full license. This report does not require a written response, however, please address the violations and concerns noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. Thank you.

*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.