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

Name of Center: Colts Corner Daycare Center **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51980

Street: 503 4th ST NE **City:** Belmond Iowa **Zip** 50421 **County:** Wright

Mailing Address: 503 4th ST NE, Belmond, IA, 50421

Director's Name: Maya Varner **Phone Number:** 641-384-4499

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

Date(s) of Visit: 01-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-13-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-19-2023

Comments : Temporary approval granted 09-30-22. Final approval granted 01-19-23

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	43	18	54	31	146
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-31-2022 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 01-23-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the center on 01-08-24. I met with the center director, Maya Varner who took over the director position in July 2023. Maya is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor degree in Psychology & Family Services, prior experience working with Head Start, and on-going training. The program opened in the fall of 2022 following a community effort to build a daycare center. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The program provides full range child care serving infants through school age children. There are approximately 45 children currently enrolled in the center served by 20 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visits.

The program is located in a renovated school building and the layout and design of the building remains the same as observed in prior visits. While the daycare is the only programming occuring building during the daily hours of operation part of the space that is used as an indoor large motor skill room and the kitchen are available to be rented for public use as a community center on the weekends when the daycare is not in operation. The classroom renovations were designed specifically to support daycare program with restroom facilities, and sinks directly accessible in each classroom so that children do not need to leave the room. There are 3 interconnected classrooms along the west side of the building that are available for infant care with the infants divided by age and developmental levels. The other classrooms are determined by age with a 2 year old, 3 year old, 4 year old, and school age room. Each room has large banks of windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. As noted the three infant rooms have interconnecting doors, and the 2 year old and 3 year old classrooms also have interconnecting doors. The interconnecting doors provide secondary egress through the adjoining rooms. The school age room has several exits, and the 4 year old room has a direct exit to the outdoors. Evacuation notices with both written and diagram instructions were posted by all exits as required. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened freely and easily. The facilities were observed to be clean with no maintenance issues noted.

Each classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures and again the general classroom layout and arrangement remain the same as in prior visits. Available activity centers present in all classrooms include options such as large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading. As the developmental levels of the children increase so do activity center options to include dramatic play, media, group learning, puzzles/games, math/science, and sand/water play. Each center was stocked with a variety of toys that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children. Copies of the daily schedule and planned curriculums were posted for each classroom. During the visit varying levels of interaction were observed with some staff being very actively engaged with the children attending to their needs, and playing with them. Others were observed to be less engaged with providing more observational supervision. While this did not result any specific behavioral issues it does have the potential for an increase in behavior as children become increasingly stimulated or seek out activities that may be more inappropriate. All classrooms were staffed so as to be in ratio. The center approach to behavior management includes the use of positive intervention techniques such as praise, redirection, and engaging the children in activities to help reduce the incidence of behavioral issues.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed. All diapering stations had a copy of the required diapering procedures posting. I was able to observe diaper changes and staff did follow the posted procedures. Chemical cleaners,

personal items, over the counter medications, and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. The center does have good medication policies in place that include a centralized medication storage cabinet, and designation of specific staff authorized to administer medications. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Mixed handwashing practices were observed with some staff doing an excellent job of ensuring children washed their hands as required and in an effective manner, while others were less focused on this. As an example a child was observed to use the restroom and while the staff directed the child to wash their hands they took no action to ensure that the child did so and simply observed the child return to the activity centers to play. It was not until Maya went over to the child and told the child to wash their hands that the child did so. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom, and additional supplies are maintained in storage. Phones and emergency contact numbers are maintained in each classroom. the center was engaged in nap time during part of the visit and good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room. Other classrooms also followed good practices with having sufficient illumination to allow staff to observe the children, spacing between cots/cribs to reduce the risk of disease transmission, and allowing those that did not need/want to nap to engage in other quiet activities.

The center does have a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no indications of rodent or insect infestation. Good food storage practices were observed in the kitchen with thermometers present in all refrigeration and freezer units and left over food items labeled with the date placed in storage and the contents. Food items were also observed to be stored in classrooms and it was reviewed that these items were not properly stored. This included both food items intended for child consumption that were left in open containers or rolled bags, and other food items intended for play activities and not consumption that were left in open containers. It was reviewed that these items would still be an attractant to insects and rodents, and prone to spoilage and need to be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers the same as would be required for items stored in the kitchen. Meals are served in the classrooms and transported in covered dishes. The teachers do pre-portion the meals and used measured scoops to ensure that each child received a full serving. Food service gloves were worn when handling food items. A copy of the planned menu was posted and followed. The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the table.

The center has installed a playground area with a variety of equipment including climbing and non-climbing structures. All equipment was observed to be in good repair. Fall surfacing beneath climbing structures is a unitary foam system. In addition to this area the center has a paved area where riding toys, sidewalk chalk, and other activities needing a hard surface can be used. The program also has access to a large open grassy area. The playground is enclosed by the building and chain link fencing.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for mandatory reporting, no smoking, consultant contact, and permission to open letter were posted in an area that was readily visible to parents and visitors. The center is using the Tadpoles parental communication application to track information and log infant daily sheets. In reviewing staff a child files a random selection of both were selected for review and compared to the self-audit completed by Maya. The self-audit was found to be accurate and Maya did acknowledge that she is working to obtain information that was found to be missing. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates all were current and available with the exception of Radon testing, and Fuel Burning Appliance inspections. Carbon monoxide detectors were present. The center parent and staff handbooks were previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has completed the first year of operation and has continued to seek to improve the services provided. The center completed renovations of the playground. The center did have some issues regarding staffing and hired Maya as the director to help address those concerns. Maya reported she does have a good group of staff and is working on training and developing strong curriculum focus for the classrooms.

Maya did acknowledge that administrative records were needing some work but she has completed a self-audit which was accurate and identified what information was needed for each child and each employee. Maya has obtained much of the information and is working with those individuals who still have missing elements to obtain that information.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- The center is working to update files and obtain all required background checks for all staff.

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.
-- The center is currently updating files and ensuring staff have a current physical on the required form.

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- The center is currently updating files and ensuring staff complete all training.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- The center is working to update files and obtain current physicals for all children.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- Food items kept in classrooms must follow the same requirements for storage as food kept in kitchen areas. All food items must be stored in air tight sealable food grade containers to reduce the risk of being an attractant to insects and rodents, and spoilage regardless of whether the food items are intended for child consumption or not.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.