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

Name of Center: Des Moines Christian Early Education **Enrollment:** 213 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27736

Street: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 400 **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50323 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 100, Urbandale, IA, 50323

Director's Name: Heather Hagaman/Trisha Lux **Phone Number:** 515-252-2482

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cheryl Whitmore **E-Mail:** hhagaman@dmcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-01-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-12-2021

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

Date Inspected: 12-06-2021

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three 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 Other X NA

Program Serves: 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	108	122	270
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2021 to 11-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 11-14-2022

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/1/22. The main director, Heather, was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Des Moines Christian Early Education Center has been in operation since 1980. This center is owned and operated by Des Moines Christian School. The center is located within the Des Moines Christian School building. The school added a new addition in 2017. The new addition is where the Early Education Center is now located, at the south side of the building. The school age programming uses the new performance hall as well as a separate school age room. There are eight enclosed rooms used for programming space. There is a secured entrance for parents to use. The center serves children from two years through school age.

The center offers full day for preschool and childcare as well as half day options. A half day option for three year old children is offered Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:15 am to 11:15 am. A half day option for four year old children is offered Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8:15 am to 11:15 am and a half day option for junior kindergarten children is offered Monday through Friday from 12:15 pm to 3:15 pm. The center offers full day programming for all ages during the summer months and provides programming for school age children during the school year when school is not in session, from 7:00 am - 5:30 pm. The center provides after school programming for school age children.

Heather Hagaman is the main director, starting in this position in June of 2022. Heather was the previous On-Site Supervisor. Heather has an Associate's degree in Business Administration and over twelve prior years of experience in preschool and daycare settings. Heather meets qualifications to be the director.

Trisha (Trish) Lux is the co-director, starting in this position in June of 2022. Trish has eight prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications to be the co-director.

Cheryl Whitmore is the On-site Supervisor, starting in this role in June of 2022. Cheryl has 15 prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications to be the On-site supervisor.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum with the gold standard for assessments. The center is also faith based and incorporates this into the daily schedule.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has well furnished classrooms with several stations set up in the classrooms.

There is very little turnover with staff and staff are very well educated and trained. Staff are very invested in the school and

are caring and nurturing. The staff have received PBIS training which helps with the behaviors of children in the classrooms. The center is also now incorporating Conscience Discipline.

The center has many long term staff, with staff working at the center for 30 years, 8 years, 7 years, several at 5 years.

The staff work well together and are a strong team.

The center has a very high retention rate for children going from the preschool program into the school program, this past school year 90% of the spots for Kindergarten came from this program.

Parents report being happy and satisfied with the center.

The center sends out monthly newsletters from the director and weekly newsletters from the teachers. The school/center has a website page as well as a Facebook page. The center has started using the school based app which assists in communication with parents.

The teachers try to meet weekly for 30 minutes for collaboration and teamwork.

The director has started conducting more coaching and observations of teachers in the classroom. During the day the director goes into the classroom for what is called King's Kids.

The center has a strong partnership with the school.

The director has imbedded professional development training into a weekly staff meeting.

The center has a secure entrance.

The lead teachers have three hours of planning built into their schedule every Monday.

The preschool program collaborates with the Kindergarten teachers.

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.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff file reviewed did not have a copy of the results for the national criminal history check.

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: 1
One staff file reviewed did not have a repeat physical at the three year mark, this was completed after three years and six months.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center conducted radon testing in August of 2021 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The head of Human Resources for the school and program advised they completed the fingerprinting of the staff and have the fingerprint card, however cannot locate the results of the national criminal history check.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Discussion took place regarding a smaller slide on the playground that was over 18 inches. This slide requires 6 feet of fall zone for surfacing. The slide was placed on surfacing, however is not anchored and sometimes moves. Discussion took place to either remove the slide or remind staff of the need for 6 feet of fall zone.

*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.