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

Name of Center: Calvary Family Center Day Care **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48658

Street: 1318 10th Ave SW **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: PO Box 184, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Vickie Zimmer **Phone Number:** 515-573-5866

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shantell Ayala **E-Mail:** pdpayton@icloud.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-06-2023

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:** 06-09-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2021

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	19		20		39
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

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: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-10-2023

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 Calvary Family Center Daycare in Fort Dodge on 07-06-23 where I met with center director Vickie Zimmer, and assistant director Shantell Ayala. Vickie took over the director role in 2022 and is qualified for the position based on her experience, and on-going professional development. The program is located in the Community Center building of the Calvary Memorial Church in Fort Dodge. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program provides care to infants through school age children. There are currently 23 children enrolled in the program served by 8 staff. All areas of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains much the same as in prior visits. The program operates on two levels of the facility with the infants, and toddlers on the upper level in a large open area that uses a mobile panel and gate system to divide the space into two areas. The preschool and school age children make use of space on the lower level. During the summer the preschool and school age children do separate to make use of two rooms on the lower level, but during the school year combine to making use of the preschool room. Each classroom has direct exits to the outdoors which were observed open easily. One exit from the preschool room is accessed via a handicapped accessibility ramp and it was observed that chairs had been placed at the entrance of the ramp to prevent the children from playing on it. It was reviewed that as a designated exit it must remain clear of obstruction and options for room arrangement were discussed with qualification to verify with the Fire Marshal what would be acceptable to fire code. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. Restrooms are located in hallways just off the main programming rooms. An additional sink is present in the infant area to facilitate hand washing. There were a several maintenance issues such as a broken toilet tank cover, drywall damage, and some furnishings with loose hardware which have been identified in prior reports and should be addressed. Other identified maintenance issues included a mobile gate system in the infant room which had a missing picket that would be an entrapment risk. It is noted that the center did have a replacement unit which was installed during the visit.

Activity centers are created through the placement of play structures, shelves, and furniture. The arrangement of the equipment was such that it did not create any blind areas. Each classroom had a variety of toys and materials present which were generally appropriate to the ages of the children present though the items that were available for the school age children was more limited. Vickie did identify that this is due in part to keeping items in storage as a means to reduce the wear and tear that the materials receive. It was also observed that the media center of the preschool classroom has an electrical cord that was hanging down over another activity area which created an entanglement risk and the cord does need to be secured. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted in each classroom. It was noted that the teacher in the school age classroom was engaged with the children and having them involved in a craft/coloring activity which was consistent with the planned schedule. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age. A group of preschool age children did leave for an off-site activity and Vickie confirmed that an additional employee does accompany the children as required.

The center does have health and safety policies in place but implemented practices do need to be reviewed. I was able to observe a diaper change during the visit and the teacher did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials, did

not wash the infant's hands, and did not properly clean the changing station by not allowing the bleach solution to dwell on the surface to be effective. Not all over the counter medications were labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Items such as purses, medications, and chemical cleaners also stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. A first aid kit was present in the center and needed to be reviewed to replace items to ensure the presence materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Some of the missing items included large bone splints, a first aid guide, fresh water, and tweezers. Good safe sleep practices were in place.

The center playground has a climbing structure, spring rockers, and other equipment which were observed to be in good repair. Wood mulch is used for fall surfacing. The level of the mulch has compacted since being installed and either a geocloth barrier was not installed or the mulch has decomposed to the point that the dept of material appears to be insufficient. In addition it was also observed that the mulch is a shredded product where some of the pieces were 6 inches in length or more. While the Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf) does allow for the use of wood mulch as fall surfacing the size of the wood chips should be less than 2 inches which would be consistent with ASTM standards related to Engineered Wood Fiber fall surfacing, and the minimum required depth is 9 inches. In addition to the area with the climbing structures there is a green space of natural grass where picnic tables are present, and an area where an astro-turf product has been placed. A paved sidewalk and patio area is also present where children can use riding toys, sidewalk chalk, and other outdoor play items. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing with a combination of chain link, and wooden panels. Some of the wooden panels were observed to be pulling away from the posts, and some of the picket tops were broken with spaces greater than 4 inches but less than 9 inches creating an entrapment risk and these do need to be repaired. In addition it was observed that the center has a garbage container which is kept on the playground. The bags of the container were open exposing soiled diapers, food items, and other trash some of which was strewn on the ground. Vickie identified that the trash that was present on the playground was due to animals getting into the container and tearing the bags. While much of the strewn trash did appear to be recent, other elements had obviously been present through different weather cycles. Options for disposal were discussed along with the requirement that staff do need to inspect the playground and pick up any trash that would be present before allowing the children to play.

The center does have a full kitchen present and meals are prepared onsite. A copy of the menu was posted and was consistent with the served meals. The menus did identify a good variety of nutritious meal options. Good food storage practices were observed for both refrigerated and dry pantry storage items. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no evidence of insect or rodent infestation. Meals are served in the classrooms with the teachers providing supervision.

In reviewing administrative records all required postings were present and in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Copies of the planned curriculum for each classroom were also posted at the main entry parent board. The center does maintain a self-audit for the children's files which was found to be accurate when compared to the documentation that was present in files that were randomly selected for review. The self-audit did identify 19 files needed an updated physical and Vickie stated she is working with parents to update the children's files. All staff files were reviewed with the exception of FBI fingerprint background checks which Vickie stated were maintained in a safe which she was unable to open. It was noted that while all staff had a current Iowa SING background check 2 were considered incomplete as they did only had a preliminary check and did not include the final result information. In addition 5 files needed an initial or updated physical. All inspection logs and certificates were current and available with the exception of the Fuel Burning Appliance inspection where the last available documentation was from 2019. As a reminder all fuel burning appliances must be inspected annually to ensure that they are in good working order with no gas or carbon monoxide leaks. The Radon testing also showed a high level of 7.4 piCu/L which is well above the 4.0 cutoff limit. The center did have information for a mitigation system which was quoted but not installed due to the price. It was reviewed that the center does need to implement a mitigation plan and could check with the Public Health Air Quality Control Specialist about options, or seek financial assistance through various community based programs.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations. The center's is currently rated a Level 3 program out of a possible 5 level scale.

Vickie identified that the center seen a complete turn over in staff and she has a very strong group of teachers. This was observed during the visit with the development and implementation of the planned curriculums, and the engagement of the staff with the children.

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

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.
-- Number not in compliance: 19

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
-- Over the counter medications including sunscreens and diaper creams must be labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belongs.

109.10(9): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are:In the center.In the outdoor play area.On field trips.
-- The first aid kit(s) in the center has been depleted and needs to be restocked to ensure that materials required to address most common first aid needs are present.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- Several maintenance issues were identified including damaged/missing pickets of interior mobile fencing units, and exterior playground fencing units. Damaged shelving units, toys, and other materials need to be repaired or removed. The hanging cord of the media center in the preschool room needs to be secured to reduce the risk of entanglement. Trash on the outdoor playground needs to be picked up prior to the children making use of the space. Fall surfacing needs to be added to the playground to meet the requirements of the Public Playground Safety Handbook, (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf)

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.
-- Radon results were above allowable levels and a mitigation plan/system is required.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- Staff did not deglove between handling soiled & clean items, did not wash the infant's hands following diapering, the changing station was not properly disinfected.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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.