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

Name of Center: Casey's General Stores Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 85 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27745

Street: 1 SE Convenience Blvd **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1 SE Convenience Blvd, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Chris Moulden **Phone Number:** 515-965-6520

On-Site Supervisor(s): Pam Aagesen **E-Mail:** cmoulden@caseys.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-22-2024

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:** 03-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-07-2024

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: 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	26	20	66	14	126
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-04-2024

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 competed 4/22/24. The Director was present throughout the visit.

This program is located in the Casey's corporate office building and has been in existence since 1990. They offer care for children whose parents or grandparents work for Casey's. These family members will often stop down at the center to see their children. This is especially nice for parents of newborns. Chris Moulden has been the director since 1994. She has a degree in Elementary Ed. Pam Aagensen has been the assistant director since 2000. She has her degree in Early Childhood.

The hours of operation are 6:45 am-5:30 pm. Care is offered to infants and children up to age five. During the summer they will offer care to a small group of school age children.

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.

Room observations/activities: The center completed some renovation and remodeling prior to or in 2023. Two new rooms were added to the center, as well as another bathroom. The center has new floors, new cabinets in the classrooms and cupboards, as well as new tables and counter tops, windows in the infant room. Staff were observed to be in ratio; engaged in group activities and to be nurturing to the children. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers/toys in each classroom. Creative Curriculum is used along with Tadpoles application to communicate with parents. There was some discussion regarding ensuring regular deep cleaning and sanitizing was taking place, especially in the 18-24 mo old room where the changing table did have some debris.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen/cafeteria that is shared with Casey's cooperate employee's. Professional staff prepares meals/snacks and this is brought to the center on a food cart. Professional Cafeteria staff/Chef complete the menus which are on a 7 week rotation and appear in line with CACFP. The kitchen was tidy and nicely arranged given the sheer number of people consuming.

Health/safety: Medication is mostly given by parents; or by the director and is stored securely. Handwashing signs are posted as required. There are first aid kits on the playground and around the center. Tornado/Fire emergency exit diagrams are posted. Drills are documented to have been completed monthly. Radon had been tested in 2022, with results all under 4.0 and testing not due again until 2027. Cooperate professional maintenance staff inspect and repair HVAC. There is a carbon monoxide detector in the kitchen, but the center could use one with in that level as the kitchen is located on the 2nd level.

Playground: The center has a large motor play area inside the center to be able to use when the weather does not allow children to go outside. Recently, surfacing was added to this space that allows for some equipment and the surfacing covers the entire area, with a path for trikes and some areas of the surfacing, which is turf, is blue to look like water with fish outlines. The fire marshal has inspected this space and approved this space. The square footage of this space allows for 100

children. An outdoor playground is divided by ages; enclosed with commercial corrugated rubber cover chain link. There is shade provided by the building. There are several nice play structures all in good repair, along with pour in place safety surfacing. The playground was in very good condition and safety checks were completed monthly.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Fliers for mandatory reporting; handbook, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted as required. There were three staff files reviewed; one with missing CPR/1st Aide cert. This is a long time employee and the director indicated if this was located; it would be provided. There was also one staff needing to renew mandatory reporter training. Five child files were reviewed one missing emergency dental contact information and a dated immunization record.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Many of the staff are long term employees at this center. Over half of the staff have a degree in Elementary Education or Early Childhood. The few staff who do not have a college degree have several years of experience working in the field of child care.

There is longevity of staff at this center, with staff working at the center for 30 years, 25 years, 18years and 7-10 years.

There are staff pictures and profiles outside of the classrooms.

The Director has been with the center for 30 years and brings valuable experience and strong leadership to the center.

Both Chris and Pam have taught Early Childhood classes for students at DMACC.

The communication between the teachers is strong and the teachers/staff work well together. The staff are professional and they are passionate about providing quality child care and education to the children they serve.

The center has a strong reputation in the community and is known for providing quality of care.

The children are ready for kindergarten both academically and socially.

The communication between the center and parents is strong. The center sends out a monthly newsletter as well.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center uses Heartland AEA as a resource and a support.

The center receives strong support from the Casey's corporation.

The director focuses on the successes of the staff and talks with them about their goals and what they need for support.

Pam, the assistant director, meets with staff 1-2 times a month to do a check in and mentor staff.

The administration team did a week of teacher appreciation in May, doing something everyday for teachers to show appreciation. The parents did a video saying how they appreciated the teachers.

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

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.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 1 (one missing date)

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last radon testing was completed in May of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The center has the heating/cooling system inspected and checked monthly.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Discussion took place regarding the center having a gecko in one of the classrooms; geckos are reptiles and as such are not allowed in centers. The director indicated the gecko would be moving out of the center.

*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.