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

Name of Center: Play and Learn Children's Center **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16857

Street: 301 Alexander AVE STE A **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 301 Alexander AVE STE A, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Wendy Bell **Phone Number:** 515-233-4431

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lacey Wyckoff **E-Mail:** amesplayandlearn@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-22-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-01-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-07-2021

Comments : A fire inspection is due 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	34	18	30	12	94
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-22-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year visit was competed 1-23-24. Co-Director Lacey Wyckoff was present for the entirety of the visit.

Wendy Wyckoff has been the owner of this center since October 2013. Wendy has stepped back into the role of full time Director as of September of 2022. Lacey Wyckoff is the co-director as of January 2023. Lacey has ten plus years of child care experience and has experience assisting with administration. Lacey has completed classes toward an associate's degree in early childhood education. Both meet the criteria for their positions.

This center is open from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. They provide care for infants through school age children. They offer full and part time care.

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 playground was observed, however it was snow covered.

Room observations/activities: There are six enclosed classrooms and children are grouped according to their age. The center has a designated staff who assists with curriculum ideas and lesson plans. The center does not use a specific curriculum, however bases their lesson plans and themes off of Early Learning Standards. The center has weekly lesson plans for the classrooms. Staff were in ratio. Classrooms were observed to be clean and nicely organized with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities/centers/toys. The center has started renovating rooms as well. Children were observed to be content and staff to maintain good structure in the rooms while responding in consistently nurturing ways to the children. This center uses bleach water and soapy water to clean/disinfect. Discussion took place regarding the need to ensure cleaning/disinfection under the changing table mats was occurring; as some debris had been observed even after the mat had been sanitized. Restrooms were clean. The restroom in the three year old room has a vanity that is disintegrating. Discussion took place with the centers plan to replace this as budget allows; cupboard doors were uneven and present a risk of pinching. The co-director shared the center has applied for grants to assist with renovations and often the landlord matches the center in funding renovations 50/50.

Nutrition Practices: This program provide snacks and lunch. There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. Menus were posted; menus rotate and are crafted by the co-director with seasonal changes. The menus appear to be inline with CACFP guidelines as this center participates in the CACFP food program. Meals/snacks are served family style in the classrooms. The kitchen was clean and nicely organized; dry and cold storage were clean.

Health and Safety : Medication is kept secure, easily accessible to staff. It is preferred that staff with med-administration training administer but if unavailable other staff follow set procedures. Hand washing posters were in every room. First aid backpacks were in every room. Fire/Tornado emergency plans were posted as required. Drills were documented has completed as required, monthly. Radon was tested 9/29/23 and all rooms tested below 4.0 cutoff, now due every 5 years. HVAC was professionally inspected 11/14/23. Carbon monoxide detectors were present in the hallway. This center is overall was organized with only a few needed areas to increase cleaning (under diaper changing mat).

Playground: The playground was mostly covered in snow but emergency exits and some paths were scooped. There are play structures and shade structure. The playground is enclosed with chain link fencing. Playground checks were documented as completed monthly as required.

Transportation/Field Trips; no transportation is provided. There have been field trips to the city library and the center then utilizes the HIRTA bus.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans, and non-smoking were conspicuously posted as required. Seven child files were reviewed with all required information found. Seven employee files were reviewed; with only one file having the employee providing a physical that took place prior to the statutory times allowed (took place 9 months prior to hire; IAC requires this to be within 6 months prior to hire). This center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a pro-care system in place and uses this system for daily notes and real time communication with families. There is a tablet in each classroom.

There is a core group of staff who are dedicated and work well together. They are professional and have a good relationship with the families.

The staff are nurturing and caring. The staff are invested in the center and take pride in their classrooms.

The center has a secure entrance.

The administrative staff work well together.

Lacey is trained as a certified CPR and First Aid instructor and is able to train the staff in CPR and First Aid.

Center staff know their families well and work hard to build and maintain a positive, trusting relationship with their families.

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

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 employee file reviewed provided a physical dates 9 months prior to hire. The requirement is up to 6 months prior to hire and every three years thereafter.

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.

Discussion took place regarding the need to ensure cleaning/disinfection under the changing table mats was occurring; as some visible debris had been observed even after the mat had been sanitized. The restroom in the three year old room has a vanity that is disintegrating. Discussion took place with the centers plan to replace this as budget allows; cupboard doors were uneven and present a risk of pinching. The co-director shared the center has applied for grants to assist with renovations and often the landlord matches the center in funding renovations 50/50. This area of the center is not-representative of the overall appearance/cleanliness of this center as most other areas were clean and well-maintained.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing occurred 9-29-23; all rooms testing below 4.0 Cutoff.

The director and on-site supervisor will ensure the child files contain all of the required and necessary information for doctor and dentist information. Some emergency information provided confused medical and dental providers.

*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.