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

**Name of Center:** Ringgold County Child Care/Family Resource Center **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 65

**Street:** 302 N Lincoln **City:** Mount Ayr Iowa **Zip** 50854 **County:** Ringgold

**Mailing Address:** 302 N Lincoln, Mount Ayr, IA, 50854

**Director's Name:** Rachel Worthington **Phone Number:** 641-464-3385

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

**Date(s) of Visit:** 04-04-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 02-22-2022

**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 X Other 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 | 8 | 8 | 67 | 20 | 103 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 4

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 04-12-2023

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

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Family Resource Center on 4-4-2023. Family Resource Center is community owned and is run by the board of directors. The center is located next to the Mt. Ayr Elementary School in a residential area of the community of Mt. Ayr. The program is located in a one story structure with a basement. Rachel Worthington is the director, she has worked at the center since August 2016 and became the director in august 2021. I met with Rachel during my licensing visit.
There are 50 children enrolled.
The Center Mission Statement is: The Family Resource Center will be a place in which children are safe and happy, and in which each child will flourish. The Center will provide numerous opportunities for children to experience wonder, pleasure, and delight. The rooms and playground will facilitate children "doing for themselves". Parents will feel confident and secure leaving their children at the center.

Services are offered to infants to school age children from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. The center provides before and after school programing one day a week, because the elementary school has a before and after school program that operates under the Department of Education.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and is well maintained. The center has six program rooms. All program rooms were in ratio. Each room has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were observed participating in a variety of activities. The staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The Ipad is used for daily sheets, communication with parents and sending pictures. The children's fun art work is displayed.
The lead teachers for each room develops the lesson/activities. The center uses Creative Curriculum, High Reach, Al's Pals, and Handwriting Without Tears. Preschool children work toward mastery of the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. Children are also provided opportunities to develop listening, social, leadership, motor and safety skills. Preschool instruction is designed around center-based interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, literacy, computers, math, science, manipulatives, art, and sand and water. Parent teacher conferences are held - progress and goals are discussed. The program rooms have monthly themes such as farm, apples, and carnival with a color, shape, and vocabulary words.
The center focuses on literacy and participates in state and national initiatives which promote a love of reading.
A weekly newsletter is provided to the families.

Nutrition:
The center participates in the federal food program. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are prepared on site. The menus are on a rotation. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and Safety:
The center has medication management procedures and utilize the medication log.
Five radon tests were completed in May 2022 , all tests were under the required 4.0 pCi/L. The center has all electric appliances. The center is on Mt. Ayr city water therefore water analysis is not required.

Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly.
Please review the difference between sanitizing and disinfecting with staff as there continues to be some confusion. I would recommend that you post sanitizing and disinfecting information in the program rooms. Make sure the bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting are labeled.

Playground:
The center has different outdoor play areas for the age groups of children. All areas are fenced and have a great variety of equipment i.e. small climbing piece with a slide, a large piece of equipment that has three slides, and a bridge, tunnel, dramatic play, sand box, benches and the surfacing is rubber square pads, riding toys, and a variety of outdoor toys available. There is a sun shade area, a grass area and cement pad areas for playing. Infant/mobile infants have an area with a sensory table, umbrella and a garden area.
Monthly playground inspections are documented.
The playground piece of equipment that is used for children three years and older needs surfacing. Rachel is exploring grants for surfacing, a play structure and a cement area to be repaired or replaced.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide transportation services. The center staff walk to the elementary school and escort the children back to the center before and after school. Walking field trips are taken throughout the year. A first aid kit and emergency contact numbers are taken on each walk.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in excellent order. Make sure all staff have the criminal record check and the national record check - Staff that are between 16 and 18 years old are in need of record checks.
Child files were read and were in excellent order. Rachel utilizes a volunteer, please review rule109.6(5)a Volunteers to make sure you are having the volunteer complete the required forms.
The center had the required policies and procedures.
Rachel has staff meetings on a regular basis, she interacts with staff on a daily basis.
The center employs 20 staff.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center is a wonderful resource for the community.
The center participates in the Quality Rating System (QRS) and have a level 4, they also have their NAC - National Administrator Credential.
Rachel will be applying for the IQ4K program.
Rachel and the staff are creative and proud of the program, the children participate in fun hands on learning experiences each day. Rachel has done a great job learning the DHS regulations, and daily functions of running the child care center.
Rachel was organized and very helpful during my licensing visit.
Although it is difficult to find staff in this rural area many of the center staff have excellent longevity. Some staff have their CDA's.

The center has participated in a variety of programs; a pilot program for physical activity and nutrition - Nap Sacc, A guided growth business program through First Children's Finance and Ag in the Classroom - it provides cultural equipment and supplies for the program rooms.

Fundraisers are held throughout the year.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
Make sure all staff have the criminal record check and the national record check - Staff that are between 16 and 18 years old are in need of record checks.

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.
The playground piece of equipment that is used for children three years and older needs surfacing.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license is recommended for 3-1-2023 to 3-1-2025.

*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.