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

Name of Center: Dr Clifford C Smith Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 31128

Street: 626 Main ST **City:** Mc Gregor Iowa **Zip** 52157 **County:** Clayton

Mailing Address: PO Box 361, Mc Gregor, IA, 52157

Director's Name: Jennifer McCullick **Phone Number:** 563-873-2992

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer McCullick **E-Mail:** drsmithchildcare@mflmm.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 11-15-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 12-04-2023

Comments : Compliance on 12/06/23

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	14	12	8	4	38
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-19-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/15/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Dr. Clifford C. Smith Childcare Center in McGregor. I met with Jennifer McCullick, the director. Ms. McCullick started with the program in October 2019 and became the director in May 2022. She has an AAS in early childhood education. She was previously an infant room teacher. The center employs thirteen staff members.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. It is open Monday through Friday from 5:45 am until 6:00 pm and it serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 36 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room, toddler room (two and younger three- year-olds), and a preschool room. School-aged children use the preschool room when they are present during the school year. During the summer months the school age children are cared for at the elementary school in town. This program is also licensed by HHS. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects. The toddler room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler and preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computer, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Most materials were in good condition. There is a vinyl slide in the preschool room that has several tears so it is unable to be properly sanitized. This should be repaired or removed. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to plan activities for the children. They keep a binder for the month that has all the activities organized for each day. Lesson plans were available for review.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in November 2024. The results for the infant and toddler rooms were within EPA guidelines. The results for the preschool room had not been received yet. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway near the infant room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/04/23, with compliance on 12/06/23.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Sally Schneider is the cook. She has been with the program for three years. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. The program is no longer working with the school system. They make all their own meals and make their own menus. They use

a five week rotation of menus. Meals are served in the classroom and dishes are returned to the kitchen. Teachers dish out the food and serve it to the children.

The kitchen is clean and organized. There is a dishwasher and three sinks available to wash dishes using the three-step method. There are two refrigerators and a chest freezer. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus are posted. Ms. Schneider has taken the Serv Safe training.

In the infant room the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed in the dishwasher. There is a food sink in the infant room to make bottles.

Owlets are used in the infant room if the parents request this. There are currently no children using them. The ProCare app is used to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two-years-old.

The center is using Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. Bleach is used to disinfect the changing tables. I observed or discussed diaper changing procedures with staff members and proper procedures are followed.

Cots are used to nap in the rooms for the older children.

The outdoor play area is naturalistic. There are two fenced in areas, one for the older children and one for the toddlers. There is a playhouse, picnic tables and benches. There are two slides built into a hill. There is a second small hill in the area as well. There was a slide in the area for older children that had a fall height of greater then eighteen inches and requires fall surfacing. This slide should be removed. There is a path for riding toys and helmets are used. There is a sandbox with a cover. There are music centers and chalkboards for the children. There is also an area for vegetable and flower gardens. Shade is provided by trees and there is a small shelter structure available.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. Every classroom took the time to take the children outside. The toddlers and preschool children were outside on the playground together. They had great teamwork. They worked with one another to provide supervision on the entire playground. They were actively engaged with play and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. Staff members encouraged children to problem solve and positive redirection was used when necessary. Infant room staff members took the children out for a walk in strollers. While in the room they were nurturing and attentive with the children. The children appeared happy at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. McCullick states the group of staff members she has work well together and support one another. Laurie, the lead infant teacher, agreed with this and said they all get along good with one another.

Ms. McCullick and Laurie state the children are happy to come to care in the morning.

Ms. McCullick was working in the infant room the day of my visit. She was not needed for ratio but was helping because several of the children are the same age and are very active. This is great teamwork and leadership.

Staff members all took the time to take their children outside, whether it was on the playground or for a walk.

Ms. McCullick states they just achieved an IQ4K level 1. They had not received the certificate yet.

The program uses the Pro Care system to communicate with parents and for parents to check their children in and out of the center.

There are pictures of staff members and children in the hallway. The hallway is also decorated with the children's artwork.

The program operates out a secured building and they have cameras in each room and the hallway. They can record. There is also a camera to record the playground.

Ms. McCullick states they have a goal to revamp the playground area. She would like fall surfacing and climbing equipment.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.