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

Name of Center: Carousel Preschool and Daycare **Enrollment:** 60 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29230

Street: 3575 Zenith Ave **City:** Spirit Lake Iowa **Zip** 51360 **County:** Dickinson

Mailing Address: 3575 Zenith Ave, Spirit Lake, IA, 51360

Director's Name: Darcy Sundall **Phone Number:** 712-339-5947

On-Site Supervisor(s): Molly Scott **E-Mail:** darcysundall@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-19-2024

Licensing Visit **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:** 05-23-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-03-2023

Comments :

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 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	24	10	23		57
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 07-10-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 06-19-24 and spoke with Director, Darcy Sundall. Carousel Preschool & Daycare is owned and operated by Darcy Sundall. Darcy Sundall has a four year degree and many years experience working with children. The program moved into their building in August 2020 which was built specifically for childcare. There are four rooms; They have an infant to 10 month, 10 months to 2years, 2/3 year old room, and 3/4 year old room. A fenced in playground area is located next to the building. The playground is designed with a nature theme and has been certified as one. The center provides year round preschool to children ages 3 & 4. The center provides care for 6 weeks to Kindergarten. The center operates Monday through Friday 6:15am to 5:30pm.

There are 60 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 41 children present. 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 center continues in cleaning toys daily that children use.

The center has the following areas throughout the rooms for the children to explore and learn: blocks, books, toys, games and puzzles. The center uses the creative curriculum and high scope. They have their daily schedule of activities posted. Children have access to bathrooms. In August 2021, the center rearranged rooms due to 4year old preschool program going to the schools all day. The center added turtle pond and sensory garden on their nature playground, 10 staff are currently working on obtaining their CDA, Iters, and Ecers training; as well as passport for IQ4K, and passed their health and safetly inspection. The center uses the pro-care app for parents to sign children in, billing, and communication with families.

It is recommended to remove bobby pillows for the infant rooms and if needed only use for nursing parents.

Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Food storage practices observed need to improve. The center is not on the food program at this time. Even though they are not on the food program currently they follow CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted. Nutritious meals and snacks are made onsite in a kitchen that is inaccessible to the children.

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. However, at this time there is no child on meds. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test was in normal range. Annual heating inspection are complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a large fenced-in playground for 2 and up and an infant/toddler playground. Playground is designed to be a nature playground. It has a nice shelter area for shade for the 2 and up playground but need a shade structure for the

infant/toddler playground. The surfacing for the infant area is turf. There is a swing set and climbing structure on the 2 and up playground which has rubber mulch for surfacing. The center does have a riding area for kids to ride bikes or cars, sandbox, and various nature areas for the children to explore. They also have an fenced in area that adjoins to the 3 and up playground that was recently updated as a nature playground. They are continuing to add to both playground.
Center does not transport they walk to go on field trips in the area.

Goals of the center are to apply for IQ4K level 3. Staff to complete their CDA trainings as well as applying for IAEYC. Look at expanding and adding a 2nd building for 2 year olds to school age.

Strengths of the center is that staff works well as a team and feel like they are a family. Center tries to have staff do extra training's beyond the required training's. A lot of community support from families and businesses in the community. The center focus's on the social emotional for the kids and let them lead on the things they want to do. They utilize 2nd step for discipline which helps the child problem solve. Nature playground for kids to experince outside play. Staff wanting to get their CDA and other trainings for themselves.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center emails the parents a newsletter each week regarding what is happening at the daycare that week.

Staff at the center are well educated and have been there for a few years,

Staff had good interaction with the children and engaged in the children activities. Each room has a daily schedule and curriculum which were being implemented at the time of the visit.

Center is on IQ4K.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 1

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant by 07-31-24 confirming that those items that fall below standards have been corrected.

Reminder staff physical should be on HHS physical form.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.