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

Name of Center: Grinnell Community Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 105 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17852

Street: 1436 Penrose ST **City:** Grinnell Iowa **Zip** 50112 **County:** Poweshiek

Mailing Address: PO Box 592, Grinnell, IA, 50112

Director's Name: Valerie Steinbech **Phone Number:** 641-236-7214

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kathleen Whisenand **E-Mail:** director@grinnellcommunitydaycare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-31-2024

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:** 06-07-2024

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

Date Inspected: 09-13-2021

Comments : 10/13/21 date of compliance

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	54	34	76	40	204
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 08-08-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Grinnell Community Day Care and Preschool has been in operation since 1969. The center is located in a single standing building with a secured entrance. The center provides programming for children ages infancy through school age. Val Steinbach is the director of the center. She became the director in October 2019. Val came to Grinnell Community Early Learning Center with several years of experience in leadership from another daycare center. Kathleen Whisenand is the curriculum director/assistant director.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Classrooms schedules and lesson plans are in place outside classroom doors. Classrooms are well furnished with furnishings, toys and learning supplies. Classrooms for the 2's and up have well supplied learning centers.

Val was present and she assisted with today's visit. The Honey Bees had five infants present. Two staff were working in this room. The Ducklings had seven infants in attendance. There were two staff working in this classroom. The Busy Bees (1's) had nine children present. There were two staff working with this class. Lambs I (2's) had eight children present. Lambs II (2's/3's) had six children present. Both of these classrooms had two staff working. The Teddy Bears (3's/4's) had six children present. Two staff were working in this class. The Kangaroos (4's/5's) had six children present. One staff was working with this group. The Tigers (4/5's) had fifteen children present. There were two staff working in this class. The Cheetahs isn't open during the summer. The Coyotes (school age) had twenty children in attendance. Three staff were working with this age group. Children were observed in classrooms and on the playground. Children were observed during group activities and during individual, child led activities.

The center has two playgrounds. Two smaller playground is for children ages two and under. Children age two and older play on the larger playground. There are tiles for surfacing on both playgrounds. There is concrete and grass on both playgrounds. School age children also use the park next to the daycare. The center completes monthly playground checklists.

The center has a full kitchen and cook on staff. The center participates in CACFP. Breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are served. Menus are on a monthly rotation with some seasonal items varying in the menus.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center lists their strengths as follows:
The Grinnell Community Early Learning Center participates in the statewide PBIS Cohort through the Iowa Department of

Education for early childhood education. Their leadership team meets monthly to work on implementation of best practices in the classroom to support positive behavior intervention supports. The staff at the center have completed Nature Explore onsite training as well as Conscious Discipline training onsite in this past year. The center also participates in the IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) quality program and is currently a Level 4.

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

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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