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

Name of Center: DMACC Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 40 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27708

Street: 2006 S Ankeny Blvd Bldg 9 **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2006 S Ankeny Blvd Bldg 9, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Sherri Sciarrotta **Phone Number:** 515-964-6238

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Wardyn **E-Mail:** slsciarrotta@dmacc.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 10-24-2023

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:** 09-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-18-2023

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	18	23	24		65
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-24-2023

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 completed 10-24-23. Director, Sherri Sciarrotta, was present through the entire visit. Jennifer Wardyn, on-site supervisor was also present for aspects of this visit.

DMACC Child Development Center, opening in 1975, is located on the DMACC Campus in Ankeny. They provide traditional day care for children ages six weeks to roughly age 5; and enrollment is currently at 60. Children of DMACC Students, faculty and the community are able to attend. Hours of operation are 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM during the fall/spring semester; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM during the summer semester. The center shares the building space with DMACC classrooms, having their own secure (coded) entry. Sherry Sciarrotta is a classroom instructor, and has been the director of this program since 2005. Jennifer Wardyn is the on-site supervisor and has worked with this center for 27 years. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

All areas of the program were observed on 10/24/23. 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.

Room observations/activities: There are three rooms used for the child care program. The center uses aspects of Creative Curriculum, Project Approach Curriculum on a "continuity of care philosophy" where staff advance as the children advance in programming ; using the MyTS application to communicate with parents. Rooms were in Ratio. There was a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys/activities. Staff were attentive to the children and maintained structure in the rooms. Staff were watchful of the students learning in the rooms as well. Projects this week for older children were geared toward "Five senses". This center uses bleach water, industrial sanitizer and each room has an automated sanitizer. The rooms/centers were arranged in a manner that allows for continuous supervision. There is ready access to restrooms, that were clean and necessary toiletries were stocked. Handwashing posters are hung, but handwashing was not observed as the children were outside or in independent play when observed. Staff wear a designated color of shirt; and students another color of shirt. Lesson plans were posted in each room.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and a dedicated Chef (Chef Brent, who was also present during the visit). Menus are devised within CACFP guidelines and rotated. Meals are prepared by Chef Brent individually and the children eat in their rooms with staff present as well. Dry storage and refrigerator storage was organized and clean. Proper storage techniques were observed to be utilized. The kitchen counters, prep areas were both clean and organized. Menus were posted on the parent board, by the classroom and in the kitchen.

Health and Safety: when medication is needed for a child; this is stored in a secure cupboard accessible to staff or in a secure compartment in the fridge is the mediation needs refrigeration. There is ready access to first aid kits. Tornado/Fire exit plans are posted; tornado/fire drills are posted and documented as having been completed. Drills align with DMACC drills in October. Radon was tested 2/2023 and all tested below 4.0. DMACC maintains and checks the HVAC system . There are carbon monoxide detectors in each room, they are new 2023. This center is very clean and organized overall.

Playground: The playground is enclosed by chain link fencing; and divided by ages. There are play structures with safety surfacing of pour in place artificial turf. There is cement in other playground areas along with grass. This center enjoys natural shade provided by trees.

Transportation/Field trips: There is not transportation provided by the center. The center has taken walk-abouts to nearby interesting artifacts on the DMACC campus.

Administrative review: Information regarding mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non smoking signs are posted conspicuously. There were three child files reviewed; and all required information was present. Three staff files were reviewed; and all required information was found. This center has well-established policy and procedures.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has maintained their NAEYC accreditation. This is a national recognition that only a small percentage of child care centers are able to obtain.

This center is in the process of applying for level 5 on IQ4K rating system; which is the highest level possible.

The director believes one of the many strengths of their program is their ability to train and turn out competent staff who have completed their Early Childhood Program with the goal for the students to be able to link their lab learning experiences to the outside child care community.

This is one of the few programs that use continuity of care; (the children have the same teacher for their time at the center).

There are several long term staff at the center; with 35+ and 20+ years at this center.

Sherri has been the director of this center for 17 years, she brings knowledge and expertise to the center, strong leadership and a passion to continually strive for quality and innovative programming.

The center was awarded the Healthiest State Award for large early care programs.

The center has created formal audit procedures to continue quality improvement initiatives such as updating staff and student handbooks, working on suggested improvement areas from NAEYC and streamlining portfolio work.

The center participates in Iowa Early Childhood Positive Behavior-Wide Adoption through Iowa Department of Education.

The director served on several panels from farm to table food initiatives in the State of Iowa. She is on a panel for 5-2-1 Choices Count Food Summit.

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

There were not aspects of operation that were found to fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon test was completed in February 2023, with all rooms testing below 4.0 Testing is due again 2028.

DMACC inspects/maintains the HVAC system.

The menus reflect the center is following all CACFP guidelines and the center provides fresh fruits and vegetables as often as they can; having a garden; the product of which was incorporated into menus.

*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.