

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

Name of Center: Ringgold County Child Care/Family Resource Center **Enrollment:** 80 **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: Brenda Adams **Phone Number:** 641-464-3385

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

Date(s) of Visit: 01-24-2018

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:** 12-19-2016

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

Date Inspected: 03-12-2015

Comments : Date of Compliance 03-24-2015. Inspection performed by SFM Curt Seddon, due every 3 years. Licensing report could not be released until certificate of compliance was provided on 2/3/2017.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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: | <u><i>Year-round</i></u> | <u><i>School-Year</i></u> | <u><i>Summer Only</i></u> | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|----------|
| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
| General | 8 | 8 | 67 | 20 | 103 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

QRS Rating: N/A

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
| X | FULL license from 03-01-2017 to 03-01-2019 |
| | PROVISIONAL license from |
| | DENIAL of initial application |
| | SUSPENSION of license |
| | REVOCATION of license |

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date: 01-30-2018

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Family Resource Center on 1-24-2018. 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 newer structure with a basement. Brenda Adams is the director, she has been employed at the center since 2001 and has been the director for several years. She possesses a CDA and NAC (National Administrator Credential) accreditation. Brenda is responsible for maintaining the daily operations of the center. Kylee Fleharty is the on-site supervisor. I met with Brenda and Kylee during my off year licensing visit.

There are eighty children enrolled.

Services are offered to infants to school age children from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Before and after school care is offered as well as full day care for in service days and during the summer.

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.

Observation of rooms:

All program rooms were in ratio. The rooms look great and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.

Creative Curriculum is used at the center. The center provides two parent teacher conferences for the three year old children each year. The lead

teachers for each room develops their own lesson plans with related fun, hands on learning experiences. The program rooms have monthly themes such as farm, apples, and carnival with a color, shape, and vocabulary words. Brenda has quarterly staff meetings and she talks to the lead teachers and staff every day.

The center focuses on literacy and participates in state and national initiatives which promote a love of reading. Curriculum includes materials and planning of High Reach, AI'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 provides instruction in math and science. Preschool instruction is designed around center-based interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, literacy, computers, manipulatives, art, and sand and water.

The infant room is separated into two sides, one side has the cribs and the other side has floor space for the children to play. On the side with the cribs there is a mirror placed in the upper corner allowing some vision of the cribs but this is not giving total visual contact. A staff person will need to be on the crib side of the room when one or more children are in cribs allowing for direct observation of the children - this has been addressed for several years. The daily sheets were complete but an activities section should be added.

Mobile infant room (one to two years) - The room was in ratio during my visit. The room is very nice, there is a carpeted area and a tiled area. The children were in free time. The children sleep on covered cots. There is a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys that are rotated monthly. The daily sheets were being filled out throughout the day. The staff were attentive to the needs of the children.

The staff were positive, nurturing and having fun with the children.

Weekly newsletters are sent home in this classroom. Parent teacher conferences are offered in the fall and spring. .

Brenda provides a newsletter to the parents, some of the program rooms provide weekly newsletters to the parents.

Center Nutrition:

The center participates in the federal food program. The center contains a moderately sized kitchen and food storage area. A cook prepares the meals on-site. Breakfast, lunch and a snack are served each day. The menu rotates about every six weeks, they have winter menus and summer menus. The kitchen was clean and proper food storage is maintained. In each refrigeration unit in the center thermometers have been placed. Refrigeration units were clean.

Center Health and Safety:

The center has medication management procedures and utilize the medication log.

Radon testing was conducted 1/4/17 with a pCi/L level of .3. Updated testing is due every 2 years and should be conducted in winter months when the ground is frozen. The annual fuel burning inspection was done in 2017 and is due annually. The center has a carbon monoxide detector. The center is on Mt. Ayr City water therefore water analysis is not required. The building was constructed after 1960 therefore a lead based paint analysis is not required.

Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented on a monthly basis.

Lighting in each room was adequate. Each room has large windows that provide natural lighting. Heated and cooled air is forced through ceiling vents. Air quality was also good in each room.

Sanitizing and disinfecting were reviewed and the center is using acceptable products. Each room including restrooms have adequate ventilation.

Center Playground:

The outdoor play area is behind the center and the entire area is fenced with chain link fence. The younger children's playground is located on the top area - there is a small climbing piece with a slide, tunnel, dramatic play, sand box, benches and the surfacing is rubber square pads. This area is fenced. The three and older playground is located on the lower area and is fenced. There is a large piece of equipment that has three slides, and a bridge. Wood chips are used for surfacing. There are riding toys, and a variety of outdoor toys available. There is a sun shade area. There is a grassy area and cement pad areas for playing also. There is a grassy area for the infants and mobile infants with a sensory table, umbrella and a garden area.

The Child Care Weather watch should be utilized if outdoor play is questionable due to weather conditions.

Center 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. At least 1 staff member will be CPR/First Aid certified and ratio rules will be followed. A first aid kit and emergency contact numbers are taken on each walk.

Center Administrative records:

All of the required postings were visible on the parent board - mandatory reporting of child abuse, consultant posting, no smoking and emergency information. The center had the required policies and procedures.

Children and staff files are read during licensing year visits.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center participates in the Quality Rating System (QRS) and have a level IV.

Brenda and the staff are very proud of the program and the children participate in a variety of fun hands on learning experiences.

Brenda is very creative and proactive. She has taken her staff to look at other centers outdoor nature classrooms.

Brenda reported the center received a grant from Dekko to work with First Children's Finance on a five year strategic plan. The plan will include budget, curriculum, staff training/pay scale, and community partners. They will receive a room analysis which gives a cost per child estimate.

The center has participated in a variety of exciting 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.

The center has purchased some new equipment for the program rooms.

Fundraisers are held throughout the year. Brenda does an excellent job writing and receiving grants.

Family Resource Center has excellent staff longevity - many staff have been employed at the center for several years.

Many of the staff have their CDA's. They are proud of the planning and programming they provide to the children.

The center has NAC - National Administrator Credential.

The center pays for staff training.

New in 2017

The elementary school provides the before and after school program, except for Wednesday and Friday after school unless the school has an early out. The center provides the before and after school program on Wednesday and Fridays except for when the school has an early out. The elementary school before and after school program operates under the Department of Education.

Mulch was added to the playground in 2017.

New equipment for the program rooms. New storage shed for trikes and on one end of the shed they have a potting shed.

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

The items that were noted from the licensing visit in 2017 were reviewed with Brenda and she reported that each item had been corrected.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 3-1-2017 to 3-1-2019.

*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.