

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

Name of Center: Vermeer Yellow Iron Academy **Enrollment:** 140 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43969

Street: 780 250th AVE **City:** Pella **Iowa Zip** 50219 **County:** Marion

Mailing Address: 780 250th AVE, Pella, IA, 50219

Director's Name: Krista Sanchez **Phone Number:** 641-621-8940

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** vermeer@brighthorizons.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-20-2024

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:** 05-31-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-22-2022

Comments : 5-6-22 - date of compliance, due every three years

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

Financial Type: X **Profit** **Non-Profit** **NA**

Accreditation: **Accredited** X **NAEYC** **NSACA** **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>Year-round</u>		<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>	
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	32	24	56	50	162
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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: Jill Seibert

Date: 05-31-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Vermeer Yellow Iron Academy opened in August 2014. This center is owned by Bright Horizons Children's Centers. It's located in a single standing building. There is a secured entrance. The centers provides child care services to children ages infancy through school age. Krista Sanchez is the director. Krista started as director at this center in April 2022. She worked at a Bright Horizons daycare center in Des Moines prior to coming to the program. Stefanie McGee has been an on-site supervisor since February 2024, but is not yet approved in iPOWER.

An unannounced licensing visit took place on 5/22/24. Krista was present and she assisted with the visit. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. All program areas were observed at that time. Staff were actively providing childcare at the time of the visit. The rooms are divided up to keep children of differing ages separate. The center is clean, bright, attractive and equipped with a satisfactory variety of new child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children. The classrooms are self-contained with phones, restrooms, and direct exits to the outdoors.

Program Observations:

The center contains rooms for infants, toddlers, Young Preschool (2's) classrooms, Preschool classroom (3's), PreK class (3/4's), Kindergarten Prep class (4/5's) and school age classrooms. The center also contains a Movement Matters room. Staffs' interactions with the children were observed to be positive.

Classrooms schedules and lesson plans are posted by classrooms entrances. Classrooms that serve children ages toddler and up have well defined interest centers. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed:

The center has a full kitchen and one full time cook. The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are on a five week rotation. Menus reflect CACFP requirements are followed.

Thermometers are in the refrigerator and freezer units per requirements. Temperatures were below recommendations of 40 degrees or below for cooling and zero degrees or below for freezing temperatures. I observed dry food storage. No food was observed on the floor. Food was stored in cabinets. All food items were kept in sealed containers. No expired food items were noted. One percent milk is served. The Director is aware CACFP approved foods must be served.

Center Health and Safety:

Children were observed in the classrooms. In each room staff were actively engaged with the children's activities throughout the visit. However, it was noted if staff need a break, to run errands (laundry), etc... classrooms would be left out of ratio.

A solution is to utilize office staff to assist with supervision. This not possible on days where an extra staff is not present.

The center may utilize volunteers. They should sign a statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters. They must undergo record check process if:
The individual is included in meeting the required child/staff ratio.
Has direct responsibility for a child or children.
Has access to child or children when no other staff is present.

The center Director and I discussed administration of prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. We discussed that children with allergies must have an Allergy Action Plan on file, posted in the room with the child and available to employees. Several children currently enrolled in the program have diagnosed allergies.

Storage and maintenance of a first aid kit is reviewed annually. Kits should be labeled and contain all items on the checklist from IDPH. The center contains an ill/injured area. Children are kept comfortable in this area until parents can pick them up.

We reviewed environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment (the center is all electric). The center contains 15 non-battery operated carbon monoxide detectors which are working and inspected once a month and documented. Radon testing was conducted in May 2023 rate of less than 4 pCi/L. Testing is due every five years and should be conducted in the winter. The building was constructed after 1971 there for a lead-based paint assessment is not required. The building is on city water therefore water analysis is not required. The school is heated and cooled with a geothermal system. Air is forced through ceiling vents. Thermostats are in each room. Ventilation and air quality was adequate on the visit. The center contains no fuel burning appliances.

Overhead lighting is provided by fluorescent lighting and the center contains five large windows in each room providing natural lighting. Windows can be opened to assist in air quality.

General regulations regarding safety policies and procedures were reviewed. The Director agreed to review current cleaners with IDPH. Hand washing and food prep sinks should be designated and not used interchangeably.

Each child in the program should have 35 square feet of usable floor space. The rooms are designed to allow adequate space for all activities. Square feet does not appear to be an issue in classrooms. All program areas were clean during the visit. A hand washing sink is present in each room and in the restrooms.

We discussed emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. Ratio was not met and maintained. Staff keep personal belongings in cabinetry. Children do not have access to this area.

The facility has fish in the preschool room and five-year-old classroom. Tanks are well kept. Plants are in each room and are on the safe plant list. Gardens outdoors contain all nontoxic plants.

Sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed. Overall, the building was clean. Restrooms were clean and contained an adequate amount of toileting supplies. Each restroom has ventilation as required.

Children do not have access to the kitchen.

Center Playground:

The center has five playground areas. All the playgrounds have turf for surfacing as well as concrete paths for riding toys. Fencing surrounds the playgrounds. There are designated playgrounds for the following age groups: infants, toddlers, 2's, Preschool and PreK and KPrep and School Age. The playgrounds have age-appropriate outdoor playground equipment and toys. Each child should have a minimum of 75 square feet of space for gross motor activities. Capacity for the area should not be exceeded.

The Child Care Weather watch is utilized when outdoor play may be questionable due to weather conditions. Playground inspections are conducted and documented monthly. April drills were not documented, but administration indicates they were done.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The center does not provide transportation and takes field trips with school buses.

Field trips are taken occasionally. The children take walks in the community so each parent signs a field trip permission form. They are in each child's file. A list of child emergency numbers and a first aid kit should be taken each trip. Field

trip ratios are followed.

Center Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior, redirection, modeling, and conflict resolution techniques. Required written policies are provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook.

Staff files are reviewed annually. Oragami is the program used to store and track this information. Information reviewed by HHS are Cpr, 1st aid, Mandatory child abuse training, continuing education and professional development hours (due annually). All staff but one have updated physicals. These are due every three years. All fingerprints are current (every four years) and Iowa Criminal Record checks (2 years). CPR/1st Aid is behind on two staff behind.

Child files are reviewed annually. All children have current physicals and immunizations on file. All children have signed medical and dental information, pick up authorizations and emergency contact information. Five child physicals/immunizations. This is not a pattern of disregard.

Annual staff training held on emergency plans were conducted in October last year. The Director will develop a new Emergency Preparedness Plan for this center. They currently have one, but it does not cover all required areas, such as Intoxicated Parents. A template of the requirements for an accepted EPP was sent to the center on 5/31/24.

Required notices and postings are present. Emergency procedures maps are posted by each door. A schedule is posted in the classrooms. A No Smoking sign is posted inside the main door where parents drop off and pick up children. Emergency numbers are posted including, Fire, Ambulance and Poison Control.

The center posts communicable diseases on the front door when necessary. A class schedule is posted. Discovery Driven Learning Curriculum is implemented daily and lesson plans are on file.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has spacious, well furnished classrooms. The center has NAEYC accreditation. Children are afforded large motor play on a daily basis as the center has large motor play rooms that are used on inclement weather days. Bright Horizons provides a great deal of support to their centers.

The Director is friendly and willing to learn.

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

1. 109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children. Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards. If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs. All policies should be in the Emergency Preparedness Plan. The center currently has a written plan, but it does not cover all required areas, such as Intoxicated Parents. A template of the requirements for an accepted EPP was sent to the center on 5/31/24.

2. 109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision. When the center is short staffed no one is able to cover for staff when they are retrieving laundry, going to the restroom, etc... This leaves the room out of ratio. Infant room workers should be positioned so that all infants can be observed by sight and sound.

3. 109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. A late snack was not being served for the evening care children. The Director stated on 5/31/ she will change lunch time and the afternoon snack to a 2:30 time frame so the three hour rule is met.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center be in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The Director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

IHHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant with IDPH. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Mandi Lauderman and Tammy Merrill, Nurse Consultants (Iowa Department of Public Health) serve as CCNCs for this center. The center is responsible for contacting CCNC Lauderman for consultation regarding health and safety issues such as hand washing, outdoor play area regulations, toppling or tipping hazards, childcare safe cleaners, etc....

IHHS recommends the center consult with Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: <http://www.iowaccrr.org>. Your Consultant is Karen Lauer. She is available to assist with questions or concerns related to curriculum, supervision, transitions, behaviors, etc... The Director reached out to CCR&R Consultant Brenda O'Holloran in 2024 and asked for consultation services prior to the HHS visit. This is best practice and is duly noted.

CCR&R and IDPH should be consulted throughout the year. The Director agreed to access Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant to arrange a Health and Safety Checklist.

*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.