

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

Name of Center: Project Youth **Enrollment:** 138 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51498

Street: 2707 Discovery Dr **City:** Rock Valley **Iowa Zip** 51247 **County:** Sioux

Mailing Address: 2707 Discovery DR, Rock Valley, IA, 51247

Director's Name: Julia Back **Phone Number:** 712-451-6939

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jill Meinerts **E-Mail:** projectyouth@premieronline.net

Date(s) of Visit: 06-12-2025

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:** 05-21-2025

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

Date Inspected: 10-03-2024

Comments : Ralee Gregg resigned, and Julia Back became the director on 09/09/24.

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 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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	54	44	57	28	183
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 07-01-2025 to 07-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Date: 06-13-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I completed an unannounced visit to Project Youth in Rock Valley IA on June 12, 2025. I met the new center director Julia Back as well as on-site supervisor, Jill Meinerts. Ms. Back has several years of experience working in childcare for many years.

Project Youth is located in the east side of town and houses a HeadStart classroom. HeadStart has its own license. The center's hours are 6:30am to 6:00pm Monday thru Friday. The center serves infants to school age (children age out at age 8). There are 8 rooms, infant to 6 months, 6 months to age 1, 1 year old room, 2-year-old room, 2/3-year-old room, 3-year-old room, 4/5-year-old room and school age room. There are 138 children enrolled in the program.

All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

As I went room to room, I observed a very clean and organized center. Each room is bright and there are a variety of visual aids hanging on the walls. They use a theme base curriculum to engage children and assist in learning. There are multiple examples of the children's artwork hanging throughout the building. There is good arrangement of furniture and centers in each room that creates a positive flow. Some of the centers include dramatic play, sensory related items and toys that encourage imagination.

I was able to observe diaper changing which was done according to guidelines. I further observed a very positive interaction between staff and the children at the center. Staff have knowledge of the children in their care. Staff are involved with the children and their activities. Staff use the ProCare app to communicate with parents about their children throughout the day. A parental daily report is given to update each family on mealtimes, nap times, toilet training and all activities accomplished each day.

The center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. I observed hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Tornado drills and Fire drills are documented monthly. Annual heating inspection was complete. Radon testing has been completed and is within normal levels. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies/procedures are in place.

The center has a van for transporting kids. Vehicle maintenance is regular, and van was observed to be in good repair. The kitchen is designed as a commercial kitchen. This area was clean and organized. Breakfast, snacks, and lunch are prepared onsite. The program is on the food program and follows CAFPC guidelines.

I also observed the center's playground area. They have separate areas for ages of children. The playground has a rubber mulch and turf for surfacing. The rubber mulch is glued together making a nice surface. There are multiple playground activities all in good repair. I was able to observe children outside and note staff is engaged with children in their activities. There is nice shade for the playground as well as a riding track around the playground for riding toys. Monthly playground inspections have been completed. Both playgrounds have shade structures.

On this day, the children were very excited as they were going to the pool after lunch, and this was the first day that they were going on this activity.

Goals of the center is to obtain is to get on IQ4K. The program is working with CCRR for support and assistance.

The center does have cameras throughout the building and outside.

This program is well run and has a very positive atmosphere.

Goals for the program is to complete IQ4K certification.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The community is very supportive of this center, and they have a good relationship.

The center does fundraisers to raise additional money.

I observed a knowledgeable staff who are dedicated to the children in their care.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

Number not in compliance for medical: 1

Information lacking: Information for doctor needs to include address and phone number.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

Number not in compliance: 4

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the new director continue to work with CCRR for support and guidance. They are working towards their IQ4K certification and CCRR will be very helpful thru this process.

Program will email consultant by 08/01/25 confirming that items that fall below standards has been corrected.

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.