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

Name of Center: Prairie Flower Children's Center **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52291

Street: 1517 Northwestern AVE **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 1517 Northwestern AVE, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Monica Marcomb **Phone Number:** 515-292-4312

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** director@prairieflowercc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-08-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-11-2024

Comments :

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

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			32		32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 03-11-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was completed 2-8-24. The Director was present for the entire visit.

Prairie Flower children's center was given permission to open 10-6-23. This is a pre-school cooperative program where parents are integrated into the learning program and are expected to provide 10 hours/semester of involvement/volunteering with the program. Prairie Flower operates from Bethesda Lutheran Church. Prairie Flower is a nature-based program and curriculum runs on what the program refers to as "rhythms"--daily themes. Families can chose between half and full-days. The program has a board of directors. Monica Marcomb is the center director.

Center Hours are 8:00 AM until 5:30 PM daily.

Room Observations/activities: The classroom is nicely arranged and has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. Staff are in ratio. This program has rhythms of the day/week, which are themes. Curriculum is pulled from Iowa Early Learning Standards and lesson plans are crafted by the director. The center. Bright wheel is the application used to communicate with parents. Restrooms are just adjacent to the classroom and were clean and stocked with necessary toiletries. Staff were observed to maintain structure in the classroom while responding to the children in nurturing manner.

Nutrition Practices: Menus are crafted by the director and rotate every 2 weeks. The center is working on application for the food program and menus appear in-line with CACFP guidelines. Menus did need posted for a week at at time. For the full day program--children and staff cooperatively prepare their meals/snacks. Parents provide snacks. There is a cooking hot plate in the classroom/when in use; discussion took place with regard to a barrier between the children and cooking area directly; that this area shall be sectioned off. Meals are served family style in the classroom. There is an on-site kitchen that the program has access.

Health and safety: medication would be stored securely and only accessible to staff; Handwashing poster/fliers were provided to post. A first aid kit is available and is being updated/restocked. Exit plans were needing to be posted. Radon testing is to be completed within a year of the program opening. The church manages the HVAC inspection/maintenance.

Playground: There is a large green space located on the church property that will be utilized as the play area; the program also incorporates trails, hiking etc as large motor play. Playground/area safety check sheets flier was provided to the program.

Transportation: The parents of the children in the program coordinate transportation; the program uses extra staff or volunteers when the children are on a walking trip or bus trip.

Administrative Review: Fliers regarding mandatory reporting was provided; handbook is accessible either hard copy or online; fliers for consultant contact were provided; license will need posted along with non-smoking signs. Staff files were reviewed and needing updated SING and submission of FBI checks (background); Child files were reviewed and are in the

process of being updated; containing necessary information. Forms regarding guidance of the necessary information in a staff and child file were provided to the program also. Discussion took place regarding creation of a parent/announcement board with all the required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center provides an opportunity for parent integration into the program at times to enhance activities.

This program is willing to utilize resources including CCR&R to assist in the program requirements.

The children were observed to be content, staff maintaining good structure in the room.

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

109.4(3)a: Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at main entrance of center.

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 3
This form was provided to the program; the director provided signed forms for the employee files.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion took place on week-long menus to be posted on a parent/announcement board; along with mandatory reporter, consultant contact, handwashing etc fliers were provided to the program.

A center licensing check sheet was provided; along with fliers to complete the parent/announcement board.

CCR&R consultant was included on email discussions with the director, who is receptive to guidance/assistance.

*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.