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

Name of Center: Ringgold County Child Care/Family Resource Center **Enrollment:** 51 **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: Rachel Worthington **Phone Number:** 641-464-3385

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

Date(s) of Visit: 02-04-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-22-2022

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 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:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	8	64		80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 02-13-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Family Resource Center on 2-4-2025. 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 structure with a basement. Rachel Worthington is the director, she has worked at the center since August 2016 and became the director in August 2021. I met with Rachel during my licensing visit.
There are 51 children enrolled.
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.

Services are offered to infants to preschool age children from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. The elementary school has a before and after school program that operates under the Department of Education.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and is well maintained. All program rooms were in ratio. Each room has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The children were observed participating in a variety of activities. The staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The Procare child care app is used for daily sheets, communication with parents and sending pictures. The daily sheets looked good.
The rooms had lesson plans/activities. Please remove all boppy pillows from your center, the infant room had two boppy pillows - they are considered a health and safety hazard for use in child care - the purpose of them is for nursing mothers. In the one to two year old room staff didn't wash child's hands after diaper changing, also the diaper changing station is dirty underneath the diaper changing mat. Please clean and disinfect underneath the diaper changing mat after each diaper change - stand the mat up to dry cleaning/disinfecting. The children's hands must be washed with soap/water after diaper changing. Rachel please provide training on hand washing and the diaper changing procedure to staff.
The center uses Creative Curriculum, High Reach, Al'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 instruction is designed around center-based interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, literacy, computers, math, science, manipulatives, art, and sand and water. Parent teacher conferences are held - progress and goals are discussed. The program rooms have monthly themes such as farm, apples, and carnival with a color, shape, and vocabulary words.
The center focuses on literacy and participates in state and national initiatives which promote a love of reading.
A weekly newsletter is provided to the families.
Rachel has received consultation and training from the child care nurse consultant and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). The center has utilized CCR&R for information on behavior management. Please make a referral to your child care nurse consultant for consultation and training on the diaper changing and hand washing procedures.
The center was recently painted and they have received new books.

Nutrition:
The center participates in the federal food program. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are prepared on site. The menus are on a rotation - menus were posted. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and Safety:
The center has medication management procedures and utilize the medication log.
Six radon tests were completed in October 2024 , all tests were under the required 4.0 pCi/L. Please refer to your handbook for radon information and the frequency of radon testing requirements as this has changed. The center has all electric appliances. The center is on Mt. Ayr city water therefore water analysis is not required.
Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly.
All staff are scheduled to take first aid/Cpr on 2-12-2025.

Playground:
The center has different outdoor play areas for the age groups of children. All areas are fenced and have a great variety of equipment i.e. small climbing piece with a slide, a large piece of equipment that has three slides, and a bridge, tunnel, dramatic play, sand box, benches and the surfacing is rubber square pads, riding toys, and a variety of outdoor toys available. There is a sun shade area, grass area and cement pad areas for playing. Infant/mobile infants have an area with a sensory table, umbrella and a garden area.
Monthly playground inspections are documented.
The center has received a grant for an outdoor play structure, and a grant will be completed for surfacing.

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. A first aid kit and emergency contact numbers are taken on walks.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in excellent order.
Child files were read and were in excellent order.
The center had the required policies and procedures.
Rachel has staff meetings on a regular basis, she interacts with staff on a daily basis. It is difficult to find staff to hire and Rachel is in ratio in program rooms as needed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Rachel is confident as the director, she is organized, creative and enthusiastic about the center.
Staff has excellent interactions with the children, they are positive and involved in programming.
The center is a wonderful resource for the community.
The center has their NAC - National Administrator Credential.
The center participates in IQ4K1.
Some staff have excellent longevity and some staff have their CDA's.

The center has participated in a variety of 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.
A variety of grants have been received for equipment, staff bonus etc.
Fundraisers are held throughout the year.

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

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
In the one to two year old room staff didn't wash child's hands after diaper changing, also the diaper changing station is dirty underneath the diaper changing mat. Please clean and disinfect underneath the diaper changing mat after each diaper change - stand the mat up to dry cleaning/disinfecting. The children's hands must be washed with soap/water after diaper changing. Rachel please provide training on hand washing and the diaper changing procedure to staff.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: One to two year old room - The diaper changing station is dirty underneath the diaper changing pad.

Children's hands weren't washed after diaper changing.
In the one to two year old room staff didn't wash child's hands after diaper changing, also the diaper changing station is dirty underneath the diaper changing mat. Please clean and disinfect underneath the diaper changing mat after each diaper change - stand the mat up to dry cleaning/disinfecting. The children's hands must be washed with soap/water after diaper changing. Rachel please provide training on hand washing and the diaper changing procedure to staff. Please make a referral to your child care nurse consultant for consultation and training on the diaper changing and hand washing procedures.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 3-1-2025 to 3-1-2027.
Administrative change - reduction in capacity.

Please make a referral to your child care nurse consultant for consultation and training on the diaper changing and hand washing procedures.
Please remove all boppy pillows from your center, the infant room had two boppy pillows - they are considered a health and safety hazard for use in child care - the purpose of them is for nursing mothers.

*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.