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

Name of Center: Yellow Brick Road Early Childhood Development Ctr **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51996

Street: 1620 SW White Birch CIR **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 756 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Lori Griffith **Phone Number:** 515-964-1098

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kelsey Cole **E-Mail:** kylie.schrader@ybrecdc.org Lori.Griffith@ybrecdc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-21-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-30-2022

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

Date Inspected: 07-27-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least 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

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	29	16	78	29	152
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-02-2022

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/21/22. The director was present throughout the visit.

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

Yellow Brick Road purchased this Tender Years Center, and the other 5 Tender Years Centers that were owned by Paula Eichinger in September of 2022. The director remains the same. The curriculum will remain the same at this time, and a new curriculum called Funny Daffer will be added soon. Funny Daffer is a curriculum designed by Yellow Brick Road and assists in lesson planning and ideas. This center will now be named Yellow Brick Road. The new owners are Jessica Johnsen and Kylie Schrader. Jessica and Kylie own centers in Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. They are not a corporation.

This center has been at this location since 2005. Care is offered to children from the age of infants to age twelve. Hours of operation are 6:30 am-5:30 pm. Lori Griffith has been the director since 2016, and has been with Tender Years since 2004. She meets the qualifications to be director. Kelsey Cole became the On-Site Supervisor in November of 2022. Kelsey has two prior years of experience in childcare and several hours of childcare related training. Kelsey meets qualifications to be the on-site supervisor.

Children are separated into six classrooms according to their ages, with the infant room being divided into two separate areas.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is longevity of staff at this center, with a staff who has worked at the center for 23 years, a staff at 15 years, a staff at 14 years. and a staff at 8 years. The director has been with this center for 20 years. Every classroom has a staff/teacher who has been with the center for at least 5 years.

The center is currently using the Learn Every Day curriculum.

The center conducts assessments and conferences twice a year. They feel the children are ready for kindergarten.

The center has a website, and the older three rooms send out a monthly newsletter.

The center works closely with parents.

The center communicates well with the parents and strives to have a positive relationship with the parents.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center works with their CCR&R consultant.

The staff have shown resiliency during the pandemic and have been willing to work overtime and have flexible hours.

The center has an IQ4K rating of 2 stars, based on a 1-5 star rating.

The center has been able to hire more staff with the help of the new owner's team and working with Indeed.

The center is now using an app called Kangaroo Time, which will allow for real time communication with families. The center will be using this app fully when all of the classrooms receive an I-Pad.

The center will close three days a year to allow for professional development training for staff.

The center will start conducting more family events.

The staff get to make a wish list through Amazon for their classrooms and the owners approve items on the wish list every Monday.

All of the Yellow Brick Road centers can use a site called Base Camp where directors can communicate with each other and access forms.

All of the directors of the Yellow Brick Road centers meet weekly with management to talk about what is working, what they need and what is not working.

The director has developed strong relationships with staff and feels she has built trust with staff.

The new owners will be completing some updates to the center, with new paint, new shelving units in some classrooms, new flooring and adding walls for an enclosed office and staff break room. The surfacing on the playground will eventually be replaced with turf surfacing.

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

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff file reviewed did not complete CRP/First aid training timely, with the certificate being expired for over a year before renewed. One staff file reviewed did not complete MR training timely, with the certificate being expired by two years before renewed.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Fire and tornado drills were not documented for the months of November and December of 2021.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining.
Tarp was coming through under the lose rubbing surfacing on the outdoor playground around the large structure. This is creating a tripping hazard and is coming through in several areas.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
A record of monthly inspections of the outdoor playground were not recorded for the months of November and December of 2021.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards .Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed .Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
Several mattresses in the infant room did not have tight fitting sheets, the sheets were very loose, creating folds and extra

material. Toys/music machines were attached to the inside of three cribs.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last test was completed in November of 2020 and was below the 4.0 cutoff in all the rooms tested. The director will put out testing kits over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The director will try to cut out the tarp on the playground so it is not creating a tripping hazard. The hope is to have new surfacing by next year.

Discussion took place regarding the cribs in the infant classroom and safe sleep. The director will order new, tight fitting sheets and have the staff remove all toys/music machines from the cribs.

Discussion took place regarding when to complete incident reports and completing these not only for injuries, but also for changes in behavior.

Discussion took place regarding the kitchen area and closing off the galley kitchen area when construction is taking place to add walls for the office; as well as putting up a solid door to the laundry room.

*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.