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

Name of Center: Safari Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 43 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51457

Street: 403 P AVE **City:** Milford Iowa **Zip** 51351 **County:** Dickinson

Mailing Address: 403 P AVE, Milford, IA, 51351

Director's Name: Dani Mueller **Phone Number:** 712-338-2731

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tatum Green-Zalabowski **E-Mail:** safarichildcare2021@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-12-2025

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:** 04-09-2025

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

Date Inspected: 01-03-2022

Comments :

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 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	10	7	30		47
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 05-19-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker completed an unannounced visit at the Safari Daycare Center in Milford Ia on 05/12/25. I was introduced to Dani Muller who is the owner/operator of the daycare. Ms. Muller has a two-year degree in Early Education and several years of experience working with children.

The center has 4 rooms, an infant room, two-year room, a 3-year-old room and a preschool room. There is a nice initial bulletin board that shows a picture of each teacher and tells you a little bit about who they are. This is helpful information for both parents and children.

All areas of the program were observed.

Meals are prepared on site. I found the kitchen clean and very organized. The kitchen is not accessible to the children. They are served meals in their rooms and sit down in a family-style meal and eat with the staff to learn manners and enjoy their meals. They participate in the CCAFP .

The classrooms have a variety of activities and visual aids hanging. They sing a song when washing their hands after breakfast to ensure their hands are cleaned.

They have nice centers for free play such as dramatic play, sensory table, kitchen area and many books and puzzles. They use a creative curriculum. Children were engaged in lessons and participating with questions the teacher would ask. They use Bright Wheel to communicate with the family. They also have monthly meetings with family members.

I like their weekly cleaning schedule for staff. Once you are done with the chore you initialize the completed task on the schedule. This is a good reminder so that the center stays clean and well cared for.

The center has a van they utilize in the summer to take the old children on field trips. Only children who are preschool age go on field trips. The center does have programs come to their center such as the library or nature center. Maintenance is kept up and the van driver has a valid license. If needed, parents bring car seats for trips.

The playground has nice, new equipment. They have shade and inspections are done regularly. The new playground was a goal of this program last year.

Medication is stored in a lock box. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon tests completed.

Their goal is to be IQ4K certified.

The facility recently had a fire inspection but could not locate paperwork. Please send this information to this consultant ASAP.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff was observed to be attentive to the child's needs at their level.

The center is organized, and they have a good schedule for cleaning.

The bright wheel app increasing communication with parents.

They have a positive environment for learning.

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 dental: 2

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please provide consultant with an email confirming that those items that fall blow standards have been completed by 07-05-24.

A full license is recommended at this time 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.