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

Name of Center: Riverview Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 130 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16138

Street: 705 Odell St **City:** Webster City Iowa **Zip** 50595 **County:** Hamilton

Mailing Address: PO Box 214, Webster City, IA, 50595

Director's Name: Rosann Messerly **Phone Number:** 515-832-9240

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristy Stertz **E-Mail:** riverviewearlychildhood1988@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-17-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 09-22-2022

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 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	14	22	30	32	98
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-23-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Riverview Early Childhood Center on 07-17-25 where I met with center director Rosie Messerly. Rosie has been with this center since 1998 and is wall qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going professional training in early childhood care. Kristy Stertz is the assistant director and is also well qualified based on her experience and on-going training. The center is located in the old Riverview Elementary school building in Webster City and is operated as a non-profit program. The school does rent space and operates a 4 year old preschool program in one classroom which is exempt from licensing under Department of Education guidelines during the school year, but the daycare does make use of the space during the summer months. The center provides daycare and preschool programming to infants through school age children. The center has approximately 130children enrolled in the center served by 25 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing were reviewed during this visit.

The physical facilities remain the same as in prior visits. Each classroom has a traditional school room floor plan with a toilet and sink accessible directly from the room. Each room has large banks of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. With the exception of the birth to 1 year old infant room which has its own direct exit door each room makes use of evacuation windows. The birth to 1 infant room did have an evacuation crib and the repairs that were needed in the prior licensing report were observed to have been completed. Exits were maintained so as to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each room was observed to be clean. There were some minor maintenance issues but nothing that rose to the level of being an immediate concern. One maintenance issue however did involve air conditioning of the older infant room resulting in that class relocating to another programming space pending repairs. The infant room does have a small mobile fence and gate barrier used to separate the play area from the sleeping area. During the visit staff were observed to use the gate when passing between the two areas. Each classroom makes use of low shelves, furniture, and play structures to define activity centers which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

The number and complexity of activity centers increase for classrooms with older children. All classrooms include options such as large/small manipulatives, books, arts/crafts, and expand to include dramatic play, math/science, and group learning for older age rooms. Each activity center had a good variety of toys and materials that were appropriate to the ages of the children. Those items that were identified as choking hazards in the prior report had been removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. Good interactions were observed with the staff being actively engaged with the children attending to their needs, and implementing the planned schedule and curriculum. The center does use positive behavior supports to encourage appropriate behavior with the teachers using routines and reminders of expected behavior, recognition of positive choices, and redirection when the children engage in negative behavior. Ratio was maintained in the classrooms as required by age with at least two teachers present in each classroom.

Good health and safety practices were observed throughout the center. I was able to observe a diaper change during the visit and the teacher did follow the posted procedures. Hand washing practices should be reviewed. During the visit the staff were observed to remind and direct children to wash their hands as needed following restroom use, and before meal service. However when observing snack service several children were observed to return to the play area while waiting for

the snack to be portioned and should have been directed to re-wash their hands again before eating. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff waiting for children to be out of the area before using chemical cleaners. Staff were also able to identify effective practices to ensure that proper dwell times were observed when using disinfectants. Chemical cleaners, medications, purses, diaper bags, and materials that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. Good medication storage and documentation practices were observed on the day of my visit. The center maintains first aid kits in each classroom and additional materials and supplies in the office. Each classroom that took children out to the playground also took a first aid kit with them. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room.

The center has two playground areas with one for toddlers and the other for preschool and school age children. Both had climbing structures and/or swings and made use of pea gravel for fall surfacing. The pea rock in both areas had recently been aerated and a good depth of loose material was observed. The equipment in the toddler playground area was observed to be in good repair. The preschool/school age playground has a new climbing structure which was observed to be in need of maintenance. Several connecting bolts had backed out and need to be reseated, and one safety panel was missing a bolt that needs to be replaced. While these did not impact the structural integrity such that the unit needed to be removed from service maintenance does need to be provided immediately. In addition that playground has a wooden stage which has deteriorated to the point that children need to be restricted from use of the structure. Both areas are enclosed by chain link fencing which was observed to be in good condition. Large mature trees are present and provide shade in both areas.

The kitchen was observed to be clean with good food storage and handling practices in place. Food items stored in classrooms were also observed to be properly stored. A copy of the menu is posted and provides a good variety of nutritious meal options. Meals are served in the classrooms. I was able to observe the morning snack service and good food handling and service practices were followed. Staff did wash their hands and wore food service gloves. The snack consisted of crackers and spinach dip, and milk and the staff did ensure that each child received a full serving. Supervision was provided at the tables while children ate.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. A random sample of child and staff files were selected for review and compared to the self-audits maintained by the center which were found to be accurate. The self-audit identified all child files contained current and updated information. Staff files were found to contain all required information with the exception of 2 that needed an updated Iowa SING background check both of which had just expired this month. All inspection logs and certificates were current and valid.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has been very stable over the past year both in terms of child enrollment and staff retention. This has resulted in the children and staff having developed strong and positive relationships where the children respond well to the teachers. The teachers have also had an opportunity to attend additional training and become familiar with the operation of the program allowing them to provide a program with a strong curriculum.

The center is currently working with the city and other community partners on plans to build a new center. Land has been gifted to the center and fund raising is occurring with plans to begin construction in the next year or two.

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.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The wooden stage structure is not safe and staff need to restrict children from using that structure. The loose and missing bolts of the preschool/school age climbing structure need to be reseated and replaced as needed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and an anticipated date of compliance. 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.