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

Name of Center: Dodger Preschool **Enrollment:** 38 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18039

Street: 1611 Williams Dr **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 1611 Williams Dr, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Kayla Takatsuka **Phone Number:** 515-955-6060

On-Site Supervisor(s): Justine Moore **E-Mail:** dodgerpreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-28-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 09-20-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 12-07-2022

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Dodger Preschool on 02-28-22 where I met with center director Kayla Takatsuka. Kayla took over as the director and lead teacher of this program in 2018. Kayla is well qualified for the position having a formal teaching license and prior experience, and has her master's degree in Literacy Education. The program is located in the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Dodge but is operated separately from the church under its own board of directors. The program also participates in the 4 Year Old Preschool Grant under the Department of Education. The center offers preschool programming only and has 40 children enrolled in three sessions served by two teachers. Two sessions are for 4 year old children, and one session is for 3 year old children. All areas of the program were observed during the visit.

The general layout and arrangement of the program remains much the same as in prior reports. The program makes use of two classrooms that are connected by a short pass-through hallway where a toilet and sink are located. Both classrooms have secondary exits that provide direct access to the outdoors. It is noted that one of the exits in the group learning classroom is blocked by a bush and is not designated as an emergency exit. Both rooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. A small kitchenette area is located in one classroom with an additional sink and refrigerator but no cooking appliances. Both rooms were clean with no concerns noted due to maintenance or layout. The primary classroom had a divider curtain that has been removed which increases the available space and improves the direct line of sight supervision of the children.

As noted one room is primarily used for group learning and has tables where the children eat snacks and can engage in activities requiring a solid stable surface. The other classroom is divided into other activity centers that include dramatic play, science, math, arts and crafts, and a listening center. Each center was well stocked with a good variety of age appropriate materials that were in good repair. The arrangement of both rooms is such that there are no blind areas. A copy of the planned curriculum and is posted along with the daily schedule. The planned curriculum theme on the day of the visit was "Buildings" and a focus on the letter "M". Good interactions were observed with both teachers being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned curriculum. THe class was divided when I arrived with Kayla in the group learning room doing a teacher lead small group activity, and Justine in the other classroom with the children engaging in self-directed play activities. Good behavior management techniques were observed on the day of my visit with both teachers using positive recognition, redirection, and assisted problem solving with the children.

Good health and safety practices were observed with the teachers reminding the children for hand washing and ensuring that they washed their hands effectively. Medications are not routinely administered due to the limited hours of operation but policies are in place should it be necessary in the future. The center did not have any children with any diagnosed allergies but does have policies in place should it be an issue in the future. A first aid kit was available and contained a limited minimal supply of materials to address most common first aid needs and should be replenished. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children.

As noted the center has a small kitchenette area. The children take it in turn to provide the snack but the center does maintain a limited supply of items to supplement if necessary. Good food storage and handling practices were observe. A list of recommended food items is posted and sent home with parents and a calendar of items actually served is maintained. The teachers did not eat snack with the children but did provide supervision at the table.

The center playground has a large open grassy area, paved riding track, swings, music centers, and a climbing structure. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing and while it could not be fully assessed due to winter freeze did appear to have developed a hardpan layer that will need to be assessed later in the spring for the need to aerate or supplement the existing material. A segmented retaining wall structure that uses securing ground stakes is used to contain the pea gravel. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing that was in good repair. Several large mature trees provide shade. In addition to the playground equipment the center also has toys and materials that are taken out for the children to play with.

All required notices and postings were present and in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents. All staff and child files were reviewed. Both staff files were found to contain all required documentation. Child files were found to contain all required information though it was noted that 10 physical had expired since having been provided at the start of the school year. All inspection certificates and logs were available and current with the exception of the Radon and Fuel Burning Appliances inspections. A new heating system was installed in 2019 but no documentation was available that it had been inspected since its installation. All fuel burning appliances must be inspected annually, and furnaces should be inspected in the fall prior to the heating season. The last Radon testing was also dated from 2019 and while the results were in the acceptable limit of 3.4 pCU/L testing is required to be renewed every 2 years.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has continued to have a very strong curriculum that is focused on developing school readiness skills.

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

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Test results were expired and must be renewed.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- The inspection certificate was expired and must be renewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the non-licensing 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.