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

Name of Center: Riverview Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 113 **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: 07-25-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 4

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:** 07-25-2023

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 07-25-23 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 an 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 113 children enrolled in the center served by 24 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 which was observed to have a missing bolt on one leg which secures the leg to the frame. This needs to be replaced before using the unit to ensure it is in good working order. 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 such as a drawer front that was missing and the nails were protruding from the damaged drawer and these should be removed or the unit repaired. The arrangement was such that there were no blind areas in any of the classrooms. 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 a staff member was observed to step over the barrier while carrying a sleeping infant. This does pose a significant safety risk where staff can trip and fall on a child, drop a child, or drop an object on a child. This did appear to be a function of the low height where it would have been difficult for the employee to open the gate. The fence and gate system should either be replaced with a unit that is easier to operate, or removed.

Each classroom makes use of low shelves, furniture, and play structures to define activity centers. 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 generally appropriate to the ages of the children. It was observed that the birth to 1 year infant room had toys that included small parts and the staff do need to assess these using a choke tube to determine if they should be removed. Toys that have parts of less than 1 1/4 inches diameter, and 2 1/4 inches in length can be a choking hazard and should be moved to classrooms with children at least 3 years of age or older.

Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. The planned curriculum for each room was well developed and appropriate to the ages of the children present with an increasing focus on specific learning concepts older age groups. Each classroom developed their own curriculum plan though some activities are more general and center wide. As an example one classroom had a learning focus of Fairs, and another Disney, but all classrooms were engaged in a tie-

dying activity. Good interactions were observed with the staff being actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs. Good behavior management techniques were observed to be in use with the staff providing children with reminders, recognizing positive behavior, and redirecting the children. Ratio was maintained in the classrooms as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed throughout the center. I was not able to observe a diaper change during the visit but the staff were able to properly identify the required procedures. Good hand washing practices were observed on the day of my visit with the staff reminding the children to wash their hands, and assisting those who needed help to ensure effective hand washing. The center does maintain diapering stations in several of the preschool age classrooms and the changing procedures postings was present by each. Chemical cleaners were labeled and stored in areas that were not accessible to children. Other items such as purses, diaper bags, and materials that could pose a safety risk to children were also 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 material was observed. Additional pea gravel was present to supplement as needed. Two slide structures of the toddler playground were observed to have damage and either need to be repaired or removed. One structure was a bridge climber where the slide chute was pulling away from the platform, and other was a tower climber where the slide cute had a crack in the plastic. The preschool/school age playground has a new climbing structure which was observed to be in good repair and appeared to have been properly installed. In addition that playground has other equipment including a wooden stage which has a number of boards that are rotting and need to be replaced or removed. 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.

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 6 child files that needed an updated physical. Documentation was also present regarding the notices that had been provided to parents informing them of the needed updated records. Staff files were found to contain all required information with the exception of 2 that needed an updated physical, and 2 that were missing documentation of an FBI Fingerprint background check. Rosie identified that these were employees that were under 18 years of age and she believed they were exempt. It was clarified that recent changes to Licensing Standards now require all staff to have an FBI Fingerprint background check but for employees under 18 their parent/legal guardian must provide written consent for the center to conduct the check. All inspection logs and certificates were current and valid though it was noted that that the radon testing results were at 4.2 which is just over the allowable cutoff limit of 4.0 piCu/L. Rosie stated that renewed testing will be conducted to verify the results.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center strives to exceed licensing standards and is participating in the QRS program to implement best practice recommendations. The center is currently rated as a 4 STAR program on a possible 5 STAR scale.

The center recently completed the installation of a new outdoor climbing structure to replace the unit of the older age playground space.

The center is looking at options to build a new facility.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.

-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 6

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- The missing bolt of the evacuation crib in the infant room needs to be replaced. The damaged slide structures of the toddler playground need to be repaired or removed. The stage structure of the school age playground needs to be repaired or replaced. Toys with parts that can be a choking risk need to be removed from infant room(s).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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.