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

Name of Center: Grinnell Community Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 107 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17852

Street: 1436 Penrose ST **City:** Grinnell Iowa **Zip** 50112 **County:** Poweshiek

Mailing Address: PO Box 592, Grinnell, IA, 50112

Director's Name: Valerie Steinbech **Phone Number:** 641-236-7214

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kathleen Whisenand **E-Mail:** director@grinnellcommunitydaycare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-28-2023

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:** 06-03-2022

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

Date Inspected: 09-13-2021

Comments : 10/13/21 date of compliance

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	54	34	76	40	204
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 12-20-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Grinnell Community Day Care and Preschool has been in operation since 1969. The center is located in a single standing building with a secured entrance. The center provides programming for children ages infancy through school age. Val Steinbach is the director of the center. She became the director in October 2019. Val came to Grinnell Community Early Learning Center with several years of experience in leadership from another daycare center. Kathleen Whisenand is the curriculum director/assistant director.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Classrooms schedules and lesson plans are in place outside classroom doors. Classrooms are well furnished with furnishings, toys and learning supplies. Classrooms for the 2's and up have well supplied learning centers.

Val and Kathleen were present today. They assisted with today's visit. The Honey Bunnies had five infants, with two staff working. The Ducklings had eight infants in attendance. There were two staff working in this class. The Busy Bees (1's) had seven children present. There were two staff working with this classroom. Lambs I (2's) had seven children present. Lambs II (2's) had six children present. Each class had two staff working. The Teddy Bears (3's) and the Kangaroos (4's) were combined today. There were nine children present. Two staff were working with this group. The Tigers (4/5's) had ten children present. The Cheetahs had ten children. There were two staff working in both classes. The Coyotes (school age) wasn't in session during the visit. Staffs' interactions with the children were observed to be positive throughout the visit. Staff assisted children with their activities and were providing adequate supervision. Children were playing in interest centers. Staff in the younger children's rooms were on the floor, holding infants.

The center has two playgrounds. Two smaller playground is for children ages two and under. Children age two and older play on the larger playground. There are tiles for surfacing on both playgrounds. There is concrete and grass on both playgrounds. School age children also use the park next to the daycare. The center completes monthly playground checklists.

The center has a full kitchen and cook on staff. The center participates in CACFP. Breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack are served. Menus are on a monthly rotation with some seasonal items varying in the menus.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center participates in IQ4K and has a four star rating. Val has a lot of experience in child care centers. The centers partners with Grinnell Newburg School District to offer Universal PreK preschool at the center. The center has classrooms

that are well supplied with age appropriate learning toys and supplies.

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

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

Infant classrooms have used boppy pillows to prop up infants. The manufacturers intended use for these devices is not for propping infants. These are loungers and pillow like devices and should not be used in licensed child care programs. The misuse of these pillows has caused injury and even deaths due to suffocation. Val said the boppy pillows will be removed from the infant classrooms.

The center has used the Playground app for completing incident reports. The center should use their forms to complete incident reports and give the reports to parents. This ensures parents are receiving reports within 24 hours hours of the incident.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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