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

Name of Center: Emmetsburg Education Center **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46288

Street: 1013 Broadway St **City:** Emmetsburg Iowa **Zip** 50536 **County:** Palo Alto

Mailing Address: 1013 Broadway St, Emmetsburg, IA, 50536

Director's Name: Paige Vannest **Phone Number:** 712-330-4814

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** info@emmetsburgeducationcenter.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-11-2023

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:** 03-29-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-10-2021

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	11		28		39
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-25-2023

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 Emmetsburg Education Center on 04-11-23 where I met with the center director Paige Vannest. Paige took over the director role in the fall of 2022 and is well qualified for the position with an Associate degree in Early Child Education, and her prior experience and on-going training with the center. The program is located in a commercial store front building in the downtown area of Emmetsburg. The program is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a board of directors. The program provides daycare to infants through school age children. There are currently 30 children enrolled in the program served by 7 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. Direct exits are located at both the front and rear of the building. A large store front window provides natural lighting and a view of the outdoors at the front of the building. A window in the rear door provides natural light and a view at the other end of the building. Restrooms are located just off the main programming space. Additional sinks are located in the infant room with one that allows for hand washing, and the other that allows for food preparation. The building has a long open floor plan divided into two programming areas by a wall, infant gate, and shelving units. The infants are located in an area at the rear of the building and the rest of the space is used for preschool and school age children.

The infant area is divided in to a general programming space and a sleeping space where cribs are located that has an L shape. The configuration is such that does create limited sight lines and staff need to be aware of positioning when infants are sleeping so that they remain with direct line of sight. The infant programming space also houses some storage cabinets and a full size refrigerator. One change that was observed was with an open front cabinet that had previously been used for storage had been modified so that the lower half was now being used as an activity play space. The toys and materials in this area were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The preschool room area encompasses the majority of the programming space in the front part of the building. The space is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, shelving, and play structures. Activity centers include options such as dramatic play, blocks, large & small manipulatives, puzzles, art/crafts, and reading. Again the toys and materials were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

A copy of the daily schedule was posted on the day of my visit, and the curriculum plan is maintained in a notebook which is available to the parents. The center uses an Experiential Learning and Project Approach to curriculum identifying a general theme with a focus on what they know, and what they want to learn about that theme and allowing the children to engage in activities that interest them. The planned curriculum had a general focus of Plants. The materials in the activity centers, and decorations did reflect these themes such as the library center having books related to seeds. One concern that was discussed with Paige is that with a child interest driven approach staff do need to ensure that they provide a framework of structure for the children. This was reviewed in relation to situations where the children were allowed to engage in more self-directed play activities where the energy and stimulation levels quickly rose with some children engaging in inappropriate play choices, and having some conflict. The staff did respond to these situations with redirecting the children and assisting in problem solving.

Good health and safety policies and procedures were generally observed. I was able to observe a diaper change and staff did follow the posted procedures. Personal items, medications, chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in an area where they were not accessible to the children. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Mouthed toys were removed from play areas to be sanitized once children were done playing with them. There were no children currently taking any medications or with diagnosed allergies but policies are in place should it become necessary in the future. First aid kits are present and contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good safe sleep practices were observed with the infant room teacher rocking one child to sleep and then placing the child in a crib. As noted the arrangement of the infant area is such that there are some sightline issues and initially the teacher was in a position to be able to observe the sleeping child, but later in the course of playing with the children did move to a location where direct line of sight was not possible. This was reviewed with the teacher who did return to an area where she could observe the sleeping infant while engaging with the other children.

The center does not have a kitchen. Meals are prepared using crock pots, roasters, or options that do not require cooking. The crock pot has been moved the prior location in the area used as an office space back to one of the cabinet shelving units that separates the infant sleeping area from the rest of the space near the tables. This does increase the risk of burns or injury from a spill or being knocked off the counter. A refrigerator is present to maintain temperatures for foods that must be kept cold and thermometers were present though these should be checked to ensure proper temperatures are maintained. When observed the temperature reading was under 20 deg. F. but liquids were not frozen. Good food storage practices were observed with items placed in sealed containers, and labeled as required. Good food handling practices were observed on the day of my visit. The teachers did wear food service gloves and used measured scoops with serving children. The meal served on the day of the visit did include canned peach slices and it was recommended that these be cut to smaller sizes which are more manageable for younger children.

The center does not have a playground due to the commercial nature of the area where the program is located. The center does make use of public parks, and takes walks with the children. All field trip activities are within walking distance and no transportation services are provided.

All required notices were present and posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. A random selection of 20% of child files were reviewed and compared to the self-audit completed by the center which was found to be accurate. The review and self-audit identified 6 children had expired or missing physicals. All staff files were reviewed and 4 had not completed all training required within the first 90 days of employment, and 3 did not have documentation of the on-going annual training required. All inspection logs and certificates were current and present.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Paige and the staff have continued to maintain a very strong program focused on helping children explore their environment and building their understanding of the things that interest them.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
-- Number not in compliance: 3

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

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.