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

Name of Center: ISU Child Development Lab School **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16971

Street: 2222 OSBORN DR STE 351 **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50011 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 2222 OSBORN DR STE 351, Ames, IA, 50011

Director's Name: Faith Marlow **Phone Number:** 515-294-3040

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Burno **E-Mail:** hbruno@iastate.edu cdlabs@iastate.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 08-12-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-03-2024

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

Date Inspected: 06-16-2025

Comments : Fire marshal inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Ames Fire Dept--Jason Ziph

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	12	26	52		90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 5

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-21-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year unannounced annual visit was completed 8-13-25. Director Faith Marlow and Parent Coordinator (On-Site Supervisor) Heather Bruno were present for this visit.

The ISU Child Development Lab School is a teaching and research child care program that opened in this location in 2000 (had moved from another building). This is a year-round program provides traditional childcare for children who are infants up to age five and is open 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday during the school year and 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (M-F) during the summer. This center is open to the community as well as students/families of the University.

Faith Marlow assumed the director role in May 2025. Faith has bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in Early Childhood Development. She also has prior childcare experience. The Parent Coordinator (OSS) is Heather Bruno. Heather has held the parent coordinator position since December, 2022. She has a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and Master of Arts/Teacher as a leader. Heather has worked for this center for 16 years prior to being promoted. Both meet the qualifications.

Room Observation/Activities: The center is located in the Palmer Building and is open to the public, but the child care program is in a secured area. This program uses continuity of care which means a child will have the same peers and the same teacher for three years as the children and teacher move together through the different age classrooms. The center uses Teaching Strategies Gold for curriculum and the Bright Wheel Application to communicate with families. The classrooms offer a variety of toys and play centers. The Classrooms were nicely arranged and staff were observed to model good handwashing practices and having the children wash as well. The children were content and freely approached teachers that were leading group activities during this visit. The rooms all have a good source to natural light, supplemented by ambient interior light. The rooms all provide easy access to the playground.

Nutritional Practices: The center has an on-site kitchen and provides AM/PM Snacks. ISU dining provides lunch. The center participates in CACFP meals and menus are in-line with those guidelines. The meals are prepared either by ISU Dining or in the kitchen and served family style in the classrooms by staff. The kitchen was clean and organized.

Health and Safety practices: Medications are securely stored in classrooms. All full-time staff are medication administration certified. Handwashing signs are posted as required. The center has several first aid kits. Emergency plans are posted as required. The center has an emergency evacuation plan that staff are trained upon hire and annually. Emergency Tornado and Fire drills were documented having been completed monthly. Radon testing was completed 2/2023 with results indicating levels under <4.0 cutoff. This building is maintained by ISU maintenance staff and has a geo-thermal heating and cooling systems.

Playground: The playground is enclosed and divided by ages of the children. The center has a large playground, which incorporates and encourages natural play with a variety of activities available, such as a reading nook under one of the trees; a sand and mud box and other imaginative play areas. There is natural shade and natural surfacing. The children were observed to be content and appeared to enjoy their time on the playground during this visit.

Transportation/field trips: no transportation provided at this time.

Administrative Records: The center has posted information regarding mandatory reporter, hand book accessibility, consultant contact, license along with fire/tornado exit plans and non-smoking signs. Five staff files were reviewed and contained all required information/certificates; Five child files were reviewed and contained all information aside from 2 files missing emergency dental care information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center received their NAEYC reaccreditation that expires in 2027.

This center has attained Level 5 in IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve on. By implementing Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), IQ4K® allows programs to assess their current grade across all areas of programming and devise a structured plan to increase the overall level of program quality).

There are licensed teachers in each of the classrooms, several of the teachers have a Master's degree.

There are many long term staff at the center.

The center works well with the University. The center is able to partner with professors at the University who can assist with behaviors in the classrooms and give guidance.

This center has a secured entry along with video/audio monitoring throughout.

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

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

-two files reviewed did not contain name/contact information for emergency dental care.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the food program and their menus reflect they are following the CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing on 2/7/23. All rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center does not have a fuel burning furnace.

This center was granted an exception to policy in 2006 to allow for the implementation of continuity of care and mixing age groupings, including in the infant room and this policy remains in effect as well as this exception to policy.

*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.