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

Name of Center: Story Book Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50734

Street: 515 Broad St **City:** Story City Iowa **Zip** 50248 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 515 Broad St, Story City, IA, 50248

Director's Name: Mariah Duszynski **Phone Number:** 515-733-0100

On-Site Supervisor(s): Christin Larkin **E-Mail:** storybookchildcare@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-12-2024

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:** 11-17-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-13-2022

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

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

Financial Type: X Profit 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	8	20	15		43
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-14-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year annual visit was completed 11-12-24. The owner/director Mariah Duszynski was present through the visit and assistant director Christin Larkin was present during times of the visit.

Mariah Duszynski is the director/owner. Mariah has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and operated a registered child care home for six years prior to opening this daycare center. Mariah also has prior experience as a preschool teacher and an assistant director. Mariah meets qualifications to be the director. Christin Larkin is assistant director, starting in this role in April of 2022. Christin has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Music and has twenty prior years of experience in a childcare setting. Christin meets qualifications for this role.

The center offers care to children from the age of 6 weeks up to around 10 years of age. The center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The center offers full and part time care.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations: This center has three separate classrooms and uses the Creative Curriculum with teaching strategies gold, as well as some aspects of the Pocket of Preschool curriculum. The center uses themes in the toddler classroom and Project Approach. There is an infant room that will serve infants 6 weeks up to two years of age. There is a middle classroom for two and three year old children. There is a preschool classroom that is also used for before and after school programming for school age children that has a capacity for 15 children. This center offers a good variety of play centers and toys that are age/developmentally appropriate. Staff were in ratio; were engaged with the children while maintaining good structure. There was good handwashing technique observed. Story Book Child Care and Preschool as attained level 4 on the IQ4K quality rating in Iowa.

Nutrition practices: Menus are crafted by the center and are in line with CACFP guidelines, offering a healthy variety of main courses, fruits/vegetables. The kitchen was clean and organized. Menus were posted. Children eat lunch and snacks family-style in their classroom areas.

Health and safety--Medication is stored in a lock box accessible by code. The Dir/Asst Director usually manage the medication administration. There are first aid kits located around the center. Tornado/Fire plans were posted and drills documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon was last tested 10/24/24, all under the federally set safety rating of 4.0. The heating, cooling and ventilation system was inspected professionally on 9/24/24. There are two carbon monoxide detectors located around the center.

Playground: The playground is smaller and located in the back of the building, enclosed with wooden privacy fencing. There is an awning on the building for shade. There is artificial turf on the ground.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were conspicuously posted as required. There were five child files and 4 employee files reviewed and all contained the required information. This center has an establish policy in place.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Story Book Child Care and Preschool has attained level 4 on the IQ4K Iowa quality rating system.

The center strives for positive and effective communication with families. The center sends out weekly emails to parents with updates and each classroom has their own Facebook page that is private for parents to see pictures of real time events for their children during the day.

The director conducts quarterly staff meetings. The center is closed on the day of the staff meeting to allow staff all day for the meeting and for a potential training day.

The director is very organized and efficient. The staff appeared to work well in their own areas of responsibility and as a team for the whole center.

The director and assistant director strive to show staff they are valued and appreciated. Staff are provided snacks and treats and the director lets staff know she is there for them and available for breaks.

The center works well with CCR&R as well as AEA and the school district.

The center has a secure entrance.

The classrooms are well equipped with center activities and developmentally appropriate toys, games and activities.

The center has a private Facebook page where they post pictures and information.

The center owner/director is training now to be a CPR/First aid instructor.

The center has guest speakers for the children.

The center has engaged in participation with the WAGES (WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual's level of formal education); and TEACH (T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children).

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

109.4(5): Child Care Centers and Preschool Licensing Standards and Procedures shall be available in the center and a notice stating a copy is available for review. Contact information of the child care consultant shall be included in the notice. A new notice was provided; the previous flier did not contain updated contact information. The center director would update ASAP.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's menu reflects they are following CACFP guidelines.

The center last conducted radon testing 10/24/24 and all rooms tested were below the 4.0 cutoff.

This center offers a good variety of activities and play centers. Staff are engaged with the children and maintain structure/routine. The director, assistant director and staff work as a team. The children were observed to be content and involved in activities.

*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.