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

Name of Center: Foundations Learning Center **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51521

Street: 56829 US Highway 30 **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 56829 US Highway 30, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Elizabeth Schmidt **Phone Number:** 515-206-9068

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jewel Heubner/Darcy Smalley **E-Mail:** director@foundationsames.org

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-30-2021

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

Date Inspected: 02-21-2021

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: 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 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	16	16	25		57
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 05-25-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This administrative change report reflects a change in the center's total capacity. The capacity was limited to 40 previously due to the DNR and the septic system. On 5/10/23 the director sent an email from the DNR that they can increase their capacity to 57. The center is using classrooms A2 and A4 for infants, each with a capacity of 8. The center is using classroom B5 for their 2 year old children which has a capacity for 18 and this will be capped at 16. The center is using classroom B2 for preschool which has a capacity for 11, this will be capped at 10, and classroom B1 for preschool which has a capacity for 15 children. This brings the total capacity to 57.

The information below is from the last licensing visit. There are no other changes at this time.

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/17/22. The Director and On-Site Supervisor, Jewel, were present throughout the visit.

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.

This center was given Permission to Open on 8/23/21. This center is a non-profit center and has a Board of Directors. The center is located in a wing of the Cornerstone Church. The Fire Marshal approved three sections in this wing to be used, what is referred to as section A, Section B and Section C. The city at this time has only approved the total child capacity to be at 40 due to the septic system and the DNR needed to conduct an analysis before the capacity can be increased. Currently, the center is using rooms A2, A4, B5 and B1. A2 is used for infants and has a capacity for eight children. A4 is also set up for infants and has a capacity for eight children. B1 has a capacity for 15 children is is used for children aged 2-5. Room B5 has a capacity for 18 children. The center can continue to use these rooms, however must keep their total capacity at 40 until this is increased by the city.

The center has access to the indoor gym for large motor play activities. The center has an outdoor playground space and has plans to add an infant outdoor space.

Currently the center is providing care to children ages 6 weeks up to 5 years of age. Depending on enrollment, and if the city and DNR approves the center to go above 40 children, the center may start providing care to school age children. If so, they would consider using room C1, which has a capacity for 19 children.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Schmidt is the Director of the center. Betsy has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education as well

as a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family Services. Betsy has almost 5 years of prior experience in a childcare setting. Jewel Heubner is the On-Site Supervisor. Jewel has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and five years of experience, part time hours, in a childcare setting. In January of 2022, the center added an additional On-Site Supervisor, Darcy Smalley. Darcy has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family services, as well as an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. Darcy has 11 prior years of experience in childcare. All three meet qualifications for their positions.

The center uses Teaching Strategies Gold for curriculum in every classroom. Lesson plans are completed weekly.

The center opened during the midst of a pandemic. The center is following all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has strong enrollment after only being open for a short period of time. The program is still capped at 40 for enrollment due to the septic system.

The parents are supportive of the center and appreciative of the staff and care their children receive. The center receives positive feedback from parents.

The children are happy at the center. The rooms are set up well with age appropriate activities and furniture/equipment.

The center received an IQ4K rating of 1 star, based on a 1-5 scale.

The center is working with and partnering with AEA and CCR&R.

The Board of Directors is a strong support for the center.

The staff work well together and are a strong team.

The center has weekly staff meetings.

The Director and On-Site supervisors work well together and are a strong administrative team.

The center will participate in the WAGES program.

The Ames library comes out monthly to read to the children.

The center closes for two weeks in December to give staff time off and a holiday break.

The administrative team works hard to retain staff and show staff they are appreciated and valued. They do a staff celebration every three months and did a one year anniversary celebration for staff with dinner and gifts. Every Friday is staff treat day. They are having a staff Christmas party.

The center is having family nights, and had one scheduled on the day of the visit.

The center added infant/toddler space to the outdoor playground area and added a shade structure.

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

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's menus reflect the center is following the CACFP guidelines. The center is on the food program.

The center has completed a written preparedness plan and a disaster kit.

The center has a year after opening to complete radon testing, the testing should then be repeated every two years thereafter. Radon testing has not yet been conducted. The director will ensure this is completed within the next month.

A monthly playground inspection log was sent to the director after the visit to help streamline the documentation of the outdoor recreation area.

*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.