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

Name of Center: Principal Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 166 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28289

Street: 801 Park St **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 801 Park St, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Ashley Jenkins **Phone Number:** 515-235-5555

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachael Mielke **E-Mail:** pcdc@brighthorizons.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-16-2024

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:** 07-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-01-2024

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal-Eric Jacobson. 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 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	64	36	80	0	180
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 09-03-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 8-16-24. The director and assistant director were present for this visit.

Principal Child Development Center has been in operation at this sight since August of 2008. This center is designed for Principal Financial Group Employees and their children. Care is provided Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM and serves children ages six weeks to about six years. The Center is the sole occupant of this two-story building.

The center is operated by Bright Horizons. Ashley Jenkins the director of the center. Ashley came to this center in March of 2018 from another Bright Horizons center in the metro area. Ashley has been a director with the Bright Horizons corporation since 2014 and meets director qualifications. Rachael Mielke is the assistant director/on-site supervisor. Rachael has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood education and has worked for Bright Horizons since 2016. Rachael meets the qualifications to be the assistant director/on-site supervisor. Rachael also carries the title of Health and Safety Director at the center.

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.

Observations of each room: The center has 13 classrooms (some closed due to census during visit day) and all rooms were in ratio on this day. The staff were observed to lead group activities and maintain good structure in the rooms. The children were observed to freely approach staff and for staff to be responding in a nurturing manner. The rooms were nicely arranged with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities and centers. The rooms were nicely organized. Discussion with regard to improved cleaning and sanitizing of the changing tables took place, along with reminders for staff to have children wash hands after changing or using the restroom.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated staff that prepare meals in the kitchen which are then served by staff family-style in the classrooms. Menus were observed to be in-line with CACFP guidelines. There is a variety of fresh fruit and "from scratch" style meals in the menu that rotates. The kitchen and food storage were good. The kitchen was organized and tidy. The on-site cook is also trained and able to float in classrooms.

Health and Safety Practices: Medications are stored securely at that the front desk and administered by the Director/Assistant director. . The center has many stocked first aid kits accessible throughout different areas of the center. Emergency plans were conspicuously posted. Tornado and Fire drills were documented completed monthly as required. Principal financial maintains this building and the property grounds.

Playground: Most ground-level classrooms have ready access to the center's outside playground that is fenced and divided by age. The playground is surfaced with a combination of pour 'n' play and artificial grass. There is ample shade from trees and shade structures. The playground was observed to be in good condition, to contain a variety of age/developmentally

appropriate structures and activities.

Transportation: the center does not provide transportation at this time.

Administrative Records: The center has conspicuously posted information on mandatory reporter, how to access handbooks, consultant contact, license, along with non-smoking signs and fire/tornado emergency plans. There were five child files and five employee files reviewed and all were current, containing the required information. This center has a well-established policy. Remember to have new staff provide a physical form prior to starting employment.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has maintained their NAEYC accreditation.

The center offers to all staff an opportunity to gain their BA, AA or CDA. The company will pay for staff to earn a degree. This allows all staff and teaches an opportunity for growth, not only academically but professionally as well.

The staff work well together as a team and there is a strong support system in place for staff. The teachers are proud of their classrooms.

The administrative team at the center is very organized.

There is a strong partnership between the Principal company and the center.

The center has a secure entrance and the building is monitored by Principal security as well.

The center is able to share staff from other Bright Horizons centers.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

Some Infant/Toddler changing tables were observed to have debris under the changing mats and were in need of a deep clean. The entire area needs deep cleaned to be an effective disease suppression process. Discussion took place for reminders for staff to complete deeper cleaning processes. There was also discussion based on reminding staff to make sure staff and children are washing their hands after changing or using the restroom. NOTE: This issue was also discussed in 2023; and some changing tables were very clean.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center's last radon testing results available had been completed in Sept of 2023 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

*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.