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

Name of Center: New Creations Child Care & Learning Ctr at Ankeny **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52269

Street: 3004 NW 18th St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 11806 Aberdeen St NE Ste 2, Blaine, MN, 55449

Director's Name: Kristen Wonderlin **Phone Number:** 515-800-0029

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** ankeny@newcreationschildcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-30-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-08-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-24-2023

Comments : Ankeny Fire Marshal

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	66	30	70	24	190
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-14-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-31-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 8/30/23. The director was present throughout this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

New Creations Child Care and Learning Center Ankeny is a new center that was given permission to open on 8/14/23. The center serves children six weeks in age through school-age using the company New Creations Learning Curriculum. This is one of three New Creations programs located within the Des Moines Metro. The center is privately owned by a company based out of Minnesota. The director of this center is Kristen Wonderlin. Kristen has a BA degree as well as a Master's degree. Kristen has past experience working as a director at another center in the past.

During the visit, children were observed playing on the playground, being bottle fed while being held, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms.

There are a total of 10 classrooms, but currently only three classrooms are in use. Capacity of classroom are 15 (infant room), 15 (infant room), 17 (toddler room), 19 (toddler room), 15 (two year old room), 15 (two year old room), 24 (three year old room), 23 (three year old room), 24 (four/five year old room), and 23 (Pre - K room). Capacity however, is kept lower in several classrooms.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center that meets a need in a growing community.

The director has past experience being a director at another center.

There are several staff members with past experience working in child care.

The directors of all three New Creations programs in the Des Moines metro meet regularly.

Monthly all-staff meetings are planned for the near future.

The center was very clean and had good lighting throughout.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by

the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1 staff member needs further approval by HHS (DHS) Record Checks Unit.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1 staff member does not have a physical. This is scheduled for next week.

109.9(2)a: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance: 1
Information lacking: One child file was missing emergency contacts and other authorizations (field trip, photo, etc.).

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: For all children enrolled, regardless of age, a doctor and a dentist should be listed. The information should include the name, address, and phone number.

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.
1.The bolts along the playground fence and gates need to be cut so that no more than two threads are exposed.
2. Some of the mesh under the mulch is exposed which creates a potential tripping hazard.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Daily schedules need to be posted in all classrooms serving children two and older.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
1. The center is using bleach and water for their sanitizing and disinfecting. However, this needs to be dumped at the end of the day and then prepared again the following day. Also, there are different mixing solutions for sanitizing and disinfecting that need to be followed.
2. When being stored, children's bedding should not be touching other children's bedding.
3. All infant bottles need to be labeled with the child's name.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Milk for children not on breast milk or formula should be whole cow's milk. Milk for children two and older should be one percent or skim, not two percent.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Menus were not posted or available on the day of the visit.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
There were some issues with frozen food and dry food storage. If not entirely consumed, food items need to be sufficiently sealed in containers/zip lock bags.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

There seems to be some issues with the corporate office sending forms, etc. to the Waukee location and not the Ankeny location. This location would benefit from a copier/scanner so that they can send things that require immediate attention (i.e. record check forms).

It is recommended that staff files be organized directly per the staff tracking sheet.

The center has two days left from the day of the visit to conduct the monthly fire and tornado drill for August 2023. Today's inspection of the playground can count as the August 2023 monthly playground inspection (needs to be documented however on the monthly playground form).

Handbooks and emergency procedures will need to be reviewed annually by all staff.

All children need to have sunscreen applied when outside. Generally, the months for sunscreen are April - Oct.

This consultant was told the Styrofoam plates are only for staff. Children five and under should not use Styrofoam cups or plates as they are potential choking hazards.

It was noted that the center has been working with their CCR&R consultant on their Emergency Preparedness Plan. This will be reviewed at next year's licensing visit.

It is recommended that lesson plans also be posted.

The center is currently using bleach and water. It is recommended the center use an EPA registered product to make things easier. Several products seen at other centers were discussed.

The center has a year from their permission to open date (8/14/23) to complete radon testing in all classrooms. If radon levels come back below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

There will need to be an annual HVAC system inspection going forward.

The center is not yet going on field trips. This is something they will most likely do in the future once they become more established. Children's emergency contacts as well as a fully stocked first-aid kit will need to go along on all field trips.

After the visit at the related Waukee site, the center handbooks (staff and parent) were reviewed. Below are the notes/recommendations this consultant sent to that director: This center also uses the same handbooks:
I have reviewed your handbooks. Here are my notes on what needs to be done:

For fingerprinting, these either need to be completed prior to work on the first day or at least scheduled. I think you have listed they have several days to get done which is past regulation timeframes.

109.12(2) a-d Discipline does not allow -- corporal punishment; punishment that causes humiliation, fear, pain or discomfort; locking children in an area or using mechanical restraints; associating with illness, toilet training, food or rest; or the use of verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks about a child’s family. I WANT YOU TO ADD THIS SPECIFICALLY TO YOUR STAFF HANDBOOK

109.4(6) Parents shall have unlimited access to their children and to the provider caring for their children during the center’s hours of operation or whenever their children are in the care of the provider, unless parental contact is prohibited by court order. THIS WAS MISSING AND IS NEEDED IN YOUR PARENT HANDBOOK UNDER YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN RIGHTS SECTION.

Swaddling is actually not allowed at all unless there is a medical reason and the child’s physician signs/dates a note stating the reason/for how long/etc.

Physicals are needed within 30 days of enrollment (I think you have listed 14 days which is fine so long as under 30 days) for all children under school age. Statements of health are needed by parents for all school-age children within again 30 days of enrollment and then also due annually.

For ratio, it will always be 1:4 for children 23 months of age and younger. However, it can be 1:7 IF and ONLY IF there is a combination 18 month olds to 3 years old.

109.4(2)“b” DISCHARGE POLICY ? Identify the situations that could result in discharge (e.g., failure to meet center policies; failure to pay; inability of child to adjust to group experience; threat to other children, staff or self). ? Explain the communication process for addressing the identified problems. ? Describe the decision making process. ? Explain appeal and review procedures. ? Identify all relevant time frames. I DID NOT SEE A SPECIFIC DISCHARGE POLICY IN YOUR PARENT HANDBOOK SO THIS IS MISSING.

I DID NOT SEE A BITING POLICY IN YOUR HANDBOOK. I’VE ATTACHED A SAMPLE ONE FOR YOU TO GO

OVER OR YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM A SAMPLE HANDBOOK I PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED.

I DID NOT SEE AN ACCESS POLICY THAT SHOULD BE ADDED TO YOUR STAFF HANDBOOK. I'VE ATTACHED ONE FOR YOU TO ADD.

Also, I know I saw at least several of these in your Emergency Preparedness Plan, but make sure you cover all of the below (some can be combined which is what I think you had):
109.10(15)a Written emergency plans for fire, tornado, flood (if susceptible), intruders in center, intoxicated parents, lost or abducted children for blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, earthquakes or disasters that could result in structural damage or health hazards.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.