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

Name of Center: Smarty Pants Childcare **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52544

Street: 3805 Lower Beaver RD **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3805 Lower Beaver RD, Des Moines, IA, 50310

Director's Name: Kati Zepeda **Phone Number:** 515-423-0677

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

Date(s) of Visit: 08-21-2024

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:** 05-30-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-22-2024

Comments : Des Moines 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: 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	0	20	30	7	57
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-22-2024

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 8/21/24. The owner/director, Kati Zepeda, and the other owner, Lenae Arku, were both present for 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.

Smarty Pants Child Care is a new center in Des Moines that was given permission to open on 6/4/24. The center serves children ages two years in age through 11 years of age using the Preschool Tool Bag Curriculum. The center is open year - round. There are a total of six classrooms. There are other classrooms that are used for specific activities such as large motor and art.

Kati Zepeda is the owner/director of this program. Kati has past experience working in child care as a registered in-home provider. Lena Arku is a second owner. Lena also owns Sugar Babies Academy and Sugar Babies Nursery, both located in Urbandale, IA.

During the visit, children were mostly engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms. Staff were observed sitting on the floor with children and involved in children's activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center that seems to meet a need in the community. Enrollment is growing.

The center looked clean and smelled clean.

The director seems to be organized.

The director stated she believed she had a good staff who work well with each other.

This is one of three centers that are related to each other and work together.

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

109.4(2)b: Written policies on:
Enrollment and discharge. The center was missing a Discharge Policy.

109.4(2)h: Develop a policy to ensure that people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center. Include: Criteria

for allowing people on the property when children are present. How people will be supervised or monitored. How responsibility will be delegated to staff. How the policy will be shared with parents.
The center was missing this policy.

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 2. All staff need to have the Employee/Sub/Volunteer Statement forms signed/dated.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 0
Number invalid: 2. One immunization for a medical exemption was not on a State of Iowa approved form. Another immunization was printed out but only half of the immunization form was printed.

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. 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.
1. All bleach water bottles need to be labled.
2. On the playground:
a. Bolts need to still be cut/capped.
b. Along the sides next to the wooden fence need to be cleared of debris and rocks/cement and filled with dirt to level out the playground and prevent injury.

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 was one issue with dry food storage not being sufficiently sealed while in storage in the kitchen.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has one year from their open date to conduct radon testing in all classrooms (so no later than 6/4/25). All classrooms need to be tested. If all classrooms are under the 4.0 cutoff for radon, then the center can move to testing every five years for radon. If any classroom comes back 4.0 or higher, retesting is needed up to and including getting with a radon mitigation specialist to bring levels down. The center would then at least temporarily, be on a two-year radon testing plan.

The center should keep invoices of all annual HVAC inspections on-site (get these from the landlord). The HVAC system was last inspected on 8/7/24.

For transportation/field trips, the center does walking field trips and they also have a 15 passenger van that they share with Sugar Babies Academy. The van was located at Sugar Babies when Smarty Pants Child care was inspected. When Sugar Babies Academy was recently inspected, it was noted the windshield needed to be repaired. Parents provide their own car seats for their children.

All staff need to have I - Power profiles and be linked to this center.

The center is interested in IQ4K and will look at this in the future.

Lesson plans should be posted in classrooms.

Air fresheners should be kept in the office and main entrance areas only.

An Access Policy, Employee/Sub/Volunteer Statement form, and a medical immunization exemption form were all emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

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

After the visit concluded and this consultant reviewed the center's staff and parent handbooks, he informed the center :

Hello,
I have finished reviewing your handbooks. Two things were missing:

1. A child discharge policy. The information to add can be found specifically on page 139 of the licensing manual/Comm https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/BGP/55%20Comm204.pdf
2. An Access Policy in your staff and parent handbook. I will resend this to you.

Notes recommendations for your parent handbook:
1. You state you serve children starting at age 24 weeks. I think you meant starting at 24 months based on our visit yesterday.
2. Your hours state 6:30am – 5:30pm, but you have on your application 6am – 5:30pm.
3. Under your policy for drop off and pick up, I'd state "Unless Restricted by a Court Order". You state this later on in the handbook, but I'd put it here again.
4. DHS is now called Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
5. Under your Exclusion of Sick Children headline, the Covid guidelines have changed. You also list fever restrictions that are a little different than recommended. Attached are the sickness exclusion guidelines for childhood illnesses.
6. For serious injuries/incidents, I would state parents are contacted right away as well as 911 if necessary (you do have this) and then also state for incidents/accidents more minor in nature, parents will be notified upon pickup or authorized person. Incident/accident reports will be completed for both types of accidents/incidents as well.

Notes recommendations for your staff handbook:
1. Under your staff introductory period, you forget to also include Universal Precautions.

*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.