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

Name of Center: Fields of Fun Child Care **Enrollment:** 72 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51722

Street: 6340 Muirfield DR SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 6340 Muirfield DR SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

Director's Name: Veronica Castro **Phone Number:** 319-899-6063

On-Site Supervisor(s): Taryn Krahmer, co-director **E-Mail:** director@fofcr.com taryn@fofcr.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-18-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-24-2022

Comments :

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	32	32	144	67	275
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 07-27-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Fields of Fun Child Care (FFCC) commenced operations on 4/4/2022. FFCC is a profit program which operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm. The program serves children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 72.

Founding original owner/president is Taryn Krahmer. Ms. Krahmer has a BA in Biology and Outdoor Conservation. Ms. Krahmer has been in business management for over 6 years and has previous experiences in management, marketing, sales, customer relations, and estimating. Director is Veronica Castro. Ms. Castro has a BA degree in Elementary Education, experience in childcare for over 5 years and continues to participate in much child development related trainings.

On 7/18/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

FFCC offers many different early learning and childcare opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a predominantly urban community. The program accepts a variety of funding sources.

The program's mission is to "...provide a safe, fun, and enriching place of care and learning..." Their vision "...holds high the importance of the three basic needs of children, being protective of their health and safety, building positive relationships, and providing opportunities for stimulation and learning from experience..."

FFCC has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their programs: https://www.fofcr.com/why-fields-of-fun.

In April 2023, FFCC celebrated their first full year of providing a choice of childcare in the community. Congratulations!

Founding original owner/president Ms. Krahmer is an entrepreneur invested in the local and surrounding communities. The management team (e.g. Ms. Krahmer, Ms. Castro) is organized and and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. Ms. Krahmer and Ms. Castro are knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Management discussed being proud to be able to offer a secure, clean, rule following without cutting corners, quality learning environment for children.

Since the last review, FFCC has retained some seasoned employees as well as hired a few new ones. Staff throughout the center reported celebrating 1 year, 8 months, and 3 months of employment with FFCC. Management reported providing professional staff hiring and onboarding as well as holding regular staff meetings to review rules and policies (e.g. cell phone usage policy, media policy) while also offering support to staff. A "shout-out" board dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating staff was observed in a main hallway. Management also discussed having staff door decorating contests. Ms.

Krahmer acknowledged how they do their best to ensure a great work environment which ultimately leads to great care providers. Ms. Krahmer discussed future goals of participating in quality initiatives including IQ4K.

FFCC has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. FFCC successfully navigated through the 2019 health (Covid-19) pandemic, 2023 undesirable air quality and August 2023 record heat.

FFCC continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities include open houses and parent/program conferences.

Building and grounds are well-maintained emphasizing security measures. Ms.Krahmer reported having persons to help with building maintenance. Unique building features include nursing rooms, "All About Me" staff board, and DL X-N Dual Lamp High Output NEMA fixtures to help with building sanitation. The kitchen is spacious, sanitary and organized. Classrooms continue to be re-arranged to help encourage the best learning. Ms. Krahmer discussed the unique naming of each classroom which reflects a clever eco-system within the childcare. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, milestone work) are displayed throughout the program space. Furnishings and materials are child friendly. Curriculum is inclusive including a combination of learning strategies (e.g. character building, Creative Curriculum) as well as teacher-inspired ideas. Curriculum additionally incorporates seasonal/holiday parties, on-site guest speaker events (e.g. fire fighter, police officers, library), off-site field trips (e.g. local parks, splash pads, local swimming pools, AirFX, ice arena, Old McDonald Farm), and themed days.

FFCC collaborates well with community partners including local school districts, early access persons, CCR&R, local businesses (e.g. Done Done Services), and health professionals.

The infant rooms have a “no shoe” policy and was observed supporting safe sleep practices.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. FFCC has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs.. Areas of study throughout the classrooms included circus, "...to the future..." and farm. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, small group craft, school-age group circle discussion, outdoor water play). Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles, crafts, sensory items) that encourage innovative play. A very noteworthy circus experience was observed in one classroom that incorporated a clever popcorn stand, dress-up clown gear, and crafting of "big-tops" and "tight-top" art coinciding with a recent book the class read! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. food service rituals, clean-up activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The steady use of media (e.g. television, music/child videos) was observed in various room (e.g. most noted in Rain Forrest Room). While there is no rule limiting or prohibiting the use of media (e.g. screens, digital media, television), considerations as to content and duration is strongly recommended. Best practice is for screen time/digital media to not be used with infants or children under 2-years-old. Best practice is also for screen time/digital media to be limited for all other age groups, include only high-quality programming and not be a replacement for healthy activities such as exercise, human interaction, refreshing sleep, and mealtime rituals.

Ensure toys/materials are secured and placed in a manner to not create a topple or head injury hazards (e.g. Rain Forrest Room).

Licensing and management discussed observations specific to the Rain Forrest Room that included play activities, diaper

changes and clean-up procedures prior to meal/lunch service. Ms. Krahmer acknowledged the continued efforts being put forth to ensure this newer team of staff are thoughtfully planning for and around longer daily transition times. Part of the discussion included revisiting scheduled outdoor times and/or the room's daily schedule as well as consistent staff team preservation efforts for them to be able to truly experience the joys and cares of the ages served in the room.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.