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

Name of Center: Lake Mills Community Preschool & Daycare **Enrollment:** 115 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22427

Street: 711 Hwy 69 N **City:** Lake Mills Iowa **Zip** 50450 **County:** Winnebago

Mailing Address: 711 Highway 69 N, Lake Mills, IA, 50450

Director's Name: Ashley Brackey **Phone Number:** 641-592-1318

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** lmdaycare@wctatel.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-01-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-12-2023

Comments :

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 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	23	19	46	179	267
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-11-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Lake Mills Community Preschool & Daycare program on 07-01-24 where I met with center director Ashley Brackey. Ashley has been the director of this program since April of 2015 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training. The program is located in a building that was previously used as a manufacturing facility that has been remodeled to create classrooms. The center is operated as a non-profit entity overseen by a board of directors. The center provides daycare and preschool programming to infants through school age children. There are approximately 115 children enrolled in the center served by 25 staff. All areas of the center subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the program, and classrooms remain the same as observed in prior reports. The infants are divided into two classrooms with one for younger non-mobile infants, and one for older mobile infants. The infant rooms and a two year classroom are located in classrooms at the front of the building. There are two preschool rooms located off a large open central area. The large central area makes use of mobile divider panels and shelving to create a space for school age children. The remainder of the open central area is used as indoor play space when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play. The indoor play space is further divided with a smaller area for the infants and toddlers defined by a half wall. Each room was observed to be clean. There several maintenance issues noted and while most were minor concerns such as damaged drywall/paint, there was a missing outlet cover in toddler play area of the indoor gym space that did expose electrical wires. A shelving unit had been placed in front of the outlet to limit child access but this does need to be repaired immediately. Each room has a secondary exit providing direct access to the outdoors. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction but the exterior emergency exit for the infant rooms was extremely difficult to open and also needs to be adjusted, repaired, or replaced immediately. Evacuation cribs are used for children needing mobility assistance and these were also clear of obstruction. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each classroom has restroom facilities located just off the programming space so that the children do not need to leave the room. It is noted that the restrooms used by the school age children are located on the opposite side of the large open area from the area where the classroom space is established. While the children are of an age that they do not require assistance supervision is needed to ensure that children follow health and safety procedures, and address behavioral issues. Changing stations are present in classrooms for the infants and two year olds, and are also available in a passthrough area for the 3 and 4 year old preschool classrooms. The required diapering and handwashing procedures postings were present by all changing stations, and sinks used for handwashing. Each room is divided in to activity centers through the use of furniture, play structures, and shelving that did not create any blind areas.

The available activity centers increase in both options and complexity as appropriate for the developmental levels of the children. Each room has options of large/small manipulatives, art/craft, and reading. Older age rooms include options of dramatic play, table games, puzzles, math/science, and group learning. Each room was observed to have a good variety of toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The toys and items identified as potential choking hazards in the prior report had been removed from rooms with children under 3 years of age. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum posted. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age with at least two teachers present in each room. Good interactions were observed with all of the staff being actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The staff were observed to use positive behavior supports

when interacting with children by using routines, transition activities, redirection, guided problem solving, and positive recognition. All staff used calm and encouraging tones when speaking with children.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed on the day of the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and staff followed the required procedures. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff using bleach water and a 3 step process. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. One issue that was noted is that an employee purse was left out where it was accessible. Purses and diaper bags frequently contain items that can be a safety risk to children and also need to be stored where they are inaccessible. Good hand washing practices were observed for both children and staff. First aid kits were present and taken as a whole the center did have items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Safe Sleep requirements were followed for infants under 1 year of age. Bedding was present for all cribs, cots, and mats. One issue that was noted is that some classrooms had heavy window coverings and this will need to be monitored during nap time to ensure that enough illumination is present that staff can observe children regardless of positioning and be able to determine if a child is in distress or need of assistance.

The center has two playground areas with one for toddlers and the other for preschool/school age children. Both are fully enclosed and separated from each other by tall chain link fencing which was in good repair. Both were observed to have a variety of equipment and play surfaces. All equipment was observed to be in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing with some displacement in the toddler playground where the transition between the fall surfacing and surrounding concrete track used for a retaining barrier was uneven and created a tripping hazard. Ashely stated that the center does have additional mulch and plans are in place to have this installed. Shade is provided by the building, climbing structures, and constructed shade structures. As noted the center also has an indoor gym area with a climbing structure present which was also observed to be in good repair. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath this structure.

The center does have a fully functioning kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the planned menu was present in the kitchen and did identify a good variety of nutritious meal options. In addition to the kitchen area several refrigeration/freezer units are maintained in a storage area, and in classrooms. Food storage practices do need to be reviewed for both dry pantry and refrigerated items. On the day of the visit items in dry pantry storage were observed to be in open or rolled bags. Items in refrigerator units were stored in containers that were not labeled. As a reminder all food items whether intended for child consumption or not must be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the contents and date placed in storage once the original packaging seal has been broken. The staff do use measured scoops and containers to ensure each child is provided a full serving. Meals are served in the classrooms and the teachers do provide supervision at the tables.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. The center is using the Procare system which helps to maintain both staff and child files. The system was found to be accurate when compared to the documentation maintained in hard copy files. In reviewing the self-audit report generated by that system the children's were within acceptable limits for those that needed an updated physical. The center also uses that system to track infant daily sheets and while the system does have the capability to track all required information not all staff were doing so on a regular basis with not documenting daily mood and activities. It was reviewed that the system does have the ability to attach photos which can be used as a visual depiction of these required elements. The self-audit for the staff files identified 7 that needed an updated Iowa SING and/or FBI Fingerprint background check, 7 needed an updated physical, and 13 needed updated updated training. It is noted that the numbers of those needing the required information may be lower than that which was identified by the self-audit as the system did include those that were still valid but due to expire soon. Documentation of Fuel Burning Appliances inspections was not available on the day of the visit and this was cited in the prior visit as well. Ashely stated that the heating/cooling contractor who maintains the systems donates his services so does not provide any billing for services and only sends a bill if materials are needed. It was reviewed that given that there is no specific required form the center could create a form that the contactor could sign and date when at the center identifying that the units were serviced and in good repair.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ashely identified that the center has been very stable over the past year with regard to child enrollment, staffing, and general operation.

The center has installed a new basketball court to the outdoor playground area. The center is also engaging in grant writing and fund raising to complete renovations to construct a barrier in the infant room that would separate the crib/sleeping area from the primary programming area.

The center is currently working on applying to participate in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 3 (NOTE: number based on information identified by the system self-audit and does include those that may still be valid but due to expire soon)

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 7 (NOTE: number based on information identified by the system self-audit and does include those that may still be valid but due to expire soon)

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: 7 (NOTE: number based on information identified by the system self-audit and does include those that may still be valid but due to expire soon)

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.
-- The missing outlet cover in the indoor toddler large motor play area needs to be replaced. Staff purses need to be stored in areas that are not accessible to children.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

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.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- All food items must be stored in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the date and contents once the original packaging seal has been broken.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.