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

Name of Center: Riverview Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16138

Street: 705 Odell St **City:** Webster City Iowa **Zip** 50595 **County:** Hamilton

Mailing Address: PO Box 214, Webster City, IA, 50595

Director's Name: Rosann Messerly **Phone Number:** 515-832-9240

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristy Stertz **E-Mail:** riverviewearlychildhood1988@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-22-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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 **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 09-22-2022

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	14	22	30	32	98
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-01-2025

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 Riverview Early Childhood Center on 07-22-25 where DHHS co-worker Tasha Bottorff, and I met with center director Rosie Messerly. Rosie has been with this center since 1998 and is wall qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going professional training in early childhood care. Kristy Stertz is the assistant director and is also well qualified based on her experience and on-going training. The center is located in the old Riverview Elementary school building in Webster City and is operated as a non-profit program. The community school district does rent space and operates a 4 year old preschool program in one classroom which is exempt from licensing under Department of Education guidelines during the school year, but the daycare does make use of the space during the summer months. The center provides daycare and preschool programming to infants through school age children. The center has approximately 100 children enrolled in the center. All aspects of the program subject to licensing were reviewed during this visit.

The physical facilities remain the same as in prior visits. Each classroom has a traditional school room floor plan with a toilet and sink accessible directly from the room. Each room has large banks of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. With the exception of the birth to 1 year old infant room which has its own direct exit door each room makes use of evacuation windows. Exits were maintained so as to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each room was observed to be clean. There were some minor maintenance issues such as cabinet door hinges that were loose, and a cover panel of a heating register in the infant room which was not properly secured but nothing that rose to the level of being an immediate concern. The infant room does have a small mobile fence and gate barrier used to separate the play area from the sleeping area. During the visit staff were observed to use the gate when passing between the two areas. Each classroom makes use of furniture, and play structures to define activity centers which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Each activity center had a good variety of toys and materials that were appropriate to the ages of the children. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted.

Good interactions were observed throughout the time of the visit with the staff being actively engaged with the children attending to their needs, and implementing the planned schedule and curriculum. This included teachers reading to the children, doing group craft activities, going outside to play, changing diapers, serving meals, and soothing children during nap time. All teachers were observed to speak to the children using calm tones and positive word choices. The center does use positive behavior supports to encourage appropriate behavior. This included the use of routines, "helper jobs", positive recognition and praise, and reminders of expected behavior. There were no significant behavioral concerns observed on the day of my visit and those minor issues that did arise were effectively resolved using simple redirection. Good supervision was provided with staff maintaining all children within direct line of sight and sound at all times. In classrooms where there was only one teacher present and a child needed/wanted to leave the room for things such as putting items in their bag/locker the teachers would step into the doorway where they could observe the children in the classroom and the child in the hallway. Ratio was maintained in the classrooms as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were observed throughout the center. I was able to observe a diaper change during the visit and the teacher did follow the posted procedures. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers and

children washing their hands both when required and in an effective manner. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff waiting for children to be out of the area before using chemical cleaners. Tables were sanitized before and after meals. Staff were aware of and followed the requirements of use as identified on the manufacturer label directions. Chemical cleaners, medications, purses, diaper bags, and materials that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. The center maintains first aid kits in each classroom and additional materials and supplies in the office. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room for infants under 1 year of age. Older age children made use of cots with appropriate bedding, and illumination in classrooms sufficient to allow staff to observe children. There were some classrooms where cots had been arranged such that direct observation was limited by shelving units or other furnishings and this was discussed with staff on options to ensure that they can observe all children at all times regardless of relative positioning in the room.

The center has two playground areas with one for toddlers and the other for preschool and school age children. Both had climbing structures and/or swings and made use of pea gravel for fall surfacing. The pea rock in both areas had recently been aerated and a good depth of loose material was observed. The equipment in the toddler playground area was observed to be in good repair. The preschool/school age playground has a climbing structure which was observed to have a couple connecting bolts that were loosed out and need to be reseated. While these did not impact the structural integrity such that the unit needed to be removed from service maintenance does need to be provided. Both areas are enclosed by chain link fencing which was observed to be in good condition. Large mature trees are present and provide shade in both areas.

The kitchen was observed to be clean with good food storage practices for refrigerated and dry pantry items stored both in the kitchen and classrooms. A copy of the menu is posted and provides a good variety of nutritious meal options. Meals are served in the classrooms and good food handling and service practices were followed with staff using food service gloves and measured scoops to portion food. Supervision was provided at the tables while children ate.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. A random sample of child and staff files were selected for review and compared to the self-audits maintained by the center which were found to be accurate. The self-audit identified all child files contained current and updated information with the exception of 4 files that needed an updated physical as the current one had or would expire in July. Staff files were found to contain all required information and documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were current and valid. The center had renewed Radon testing in September 2024 with measured levels in all areas at or below 1.4 piCu/L. The center does not have a mitigation system and it was reviewed that recent changes to requirements allow those results to be utilized for a 5 year period before retesting is required.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is currently working with the city and other community partners on plans to build a new center. Land has been gifted to the center and fund raising is occurring. Rosie identified that the center has raised 3 million of the estimated 6 million dollars needed for the project.

Rosie identified that the center has partnered with a former teacher that is providing tutoring services and working with the center to build their school age programming.

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

None Cited

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and 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.