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

Name of Center: Discovery Daycare **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 17841

Street: 600 2nd Ave SW **City:** Pocahontas Iowa **Zip** 50574 **County:** Pocahontas

Mailing Address: 600 2nd Ave SW, Pocahontas, IA, 50574

Director's Name: Sarah Vial **Phone Number:** 712-335-4804

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** discovery.daycare@pocahontashospital.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-26-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-01-2021

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	9	5	30	10	54
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-27-2023

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 Discovery Daycare center on 07-26-23 where I met with the center director, Sarah Vial. Sarah has been the director of this program since 2013 and is well qualified based on her experience and on-going training. The program is located on two levels of a wing of the St. Peter's Church in Pocahontas. The program is operated independently of the church under a separate board of directors. The program provides daycare and preschool programing to infants through school age children. There are approximately 45-50 children enrolled in the program served by 12 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The center operates out of 6 rooms with two for infants, three for preschool age children, and one for school age children. The young infant room made use of shelving and a baby gate to define a primary programming and sleeping area from the eating and changing area. The older infant room is also divided but makes use of a mobile fence and gate system. Staff were observed to open the gate when passing between the two areas rather than stepping over the fence in both rooms. The classroom on the upper level has a curtain divider which can be closed to create two programming rooms. Each room was observed to be clean with only minor maintenance issues noted that did not present an immediate safety concern. Restrooms are located outside of the classrooms on the upper level off the main corridor. Changing stations are present in one of the restrooms and in both infant rooms. Sinks are present in the infant rooms, and one of the classrooms on the upper level to allow for handwashing. Each room has windows along the exterior walls. While the windows do allow for natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors the windows of the lower level are elevated which reduces the availability of these benefits. Several of the classrooms has multiple exits from the room and with the exception of the school age room were maintained as clear of obstruction. The school age room has 3 entrance doors to the room 2 of which were blocked by a table, and a play structure. Emergency exits must be maintained clear of obstructions at all times and the center should check with the Fire Marshal to determine if all exits from this room must be maintained clear, or if only a primary and a single secondary exit must be maintained. Emergency evacuation notices that include both written and diagram directions for fire and tornado evacuation were present by all exits from each space used for child programming. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of low shelving, furniture, and play structures. The arrangement in each was such that it does not create any blind areas.

The available activity centers of each room include large/small manipulatives, art/craft, and books, and increase in the number and complexity of centers for older age groups to include math/science, dramatic play, group learning, and media. Each activity center was observed to have toys and materials present that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Additional toys and materials are kept in storage and be rotated into use to provide new play options. A copy of the daily schedule was present in each room but none had a copy of the planned curriculum posted. This has been identified as an issue in prior reports. While the center can use a more relaxed format of identifying a general learning concept or theme having a defined curriculum that ensures children are provided with opportunity to develop cognitive, social, and physical skills that are developmentally appropriate is required. Despite not having a posted curriculum the teachers were observed to be engaged with the children and presenting activities. Examples include in the preschool room where the class moved from engaging in child directed free choice play to a teacher lead group learning activity where they reviewed specific learning concepts of the days of the week, counting, and colors. In the school age room the children were

observed to engage in an interactive video based on a video game that incorporated music, dancing, and exercise. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age groups.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit. I was unable to observe a diaper change during the visit but the required changing procedures posting was present by all changing stations. Chemical cleaners, medications, personal belongings, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were properly labeled and stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. Hand washing practices were mixed. Staff were observed to inquire of children if they washed their hands following restroom use. With regard to handwashing prior to meal service one class of 2 year old were observed to not wash their hands prior to eating, and the preschool children were directed to sit on the floor while waiting for peers which effectively negated the benefits of washing their hands. First aid kits were maintained in the center and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Safe sleep practices were followed for children under 12 months of age as required. One issue that was noted is that several crib mattresses were observed to have tears in the waterproof cover exposing foam core and these need to be replaced. Additionally bedding is required for all cribs, cots, or mats used for sleeping. Good supervision was generally provided but one issue that was observed was with regard to school age children and restroom use. As noted restrooms are located outside the classroom and children were sent to use the restroom on their own. While school age children are of an age that it can be reasonably assumed they would not need assistance in the restroom staff should still position themselves in a location where they can observe to ensure children go to the restroom and they could monitor by sound for the need to provide assistance.

The outdoor play area was observed and is fully enclosed and separated into two areas with one for older children, and one for infants and toddlers by chain link fencing. The playground for the older children has a large climbing structure which was observed to have several of the connecting points that had loose or missing hardware. The structure should not be used until repairs are made. The other equipment and toys were observed to be in good repair. The main playground has a variety of play surfaces that include grass, pavement, and the soft area with the rubber mulch used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures. A good depth of material was present in the fall zones. The toddler playground is a large open grassy area with a variety of non-climbing structures but a small residential grade toddler slide was present which had no fall surfacing beneath it. This structure needs to have fall surfacing material placed beneath it, moved to the other playground space where fall surfacing is present, or removed from use. A storage shed is used to house additional toys and materials. Mature trees, and awnings provide shade.

The center makes use of the Summer Lunch Program from the school with the older children walking to the school, and meals being brought in hot/cold holding containers for younger children. When the school program is not in operation meals are prepared by the local hospital and brought to the center in hot/cold holding containers for all age groups. The center does prepare breakfast and snacks on-site and some items are maintained at the center. A refrigerator is present and food items were properly stored. A copy of the planned menu was posted at the main entrance it would be visible to parents or visitors as required. The meal served on the day of my visit included chicken tenders, fruit cups, carrots, and milk. Good food service practices were observed with the staff wearing food service gloves and items provided in pre-portioned servings. While the staff did not sit to eat with the children supervision was provided.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. The center is using the Pro-Care program to track child and staff information and allows the center to run audits of needed information, but also maintains hard copy files of original documents. A random sample of both staff and child files were selected for review and compared to the electronic system which was accurate. The system identified 6 children that needed a renewed physical and it was observed that notices had been generated for parents reminding them of the need to update the information. One issue that was noted with regard to child files was for infant daily sheets in which staff were not documenting the daily activities of the children as required. When reviewing staff files it was noted that again while the electronic system was accurate in terms of the dates materials were received there some issues identified. One issue is that while several employees did have a current physical it was not on the required form and so would be considered invalid. In addition several staff were identified as being "Exempt" from certain training elements such as Essentials Of Child Care which is required within the first 90 days of employment. Sarah identified that these are staff who are enrolled in school and will be leaving at the end of the summer. It was reviewed that all staff regardless of whether full or part time employment must complete all required training within the established time frames. Emergency fire and tornado drills were not conducted for several months of the current year. As a reminder Emergency Drills must be completed and documented monthly. The center also did not have documentation of Radon Testing being renewed as required. Radon is required to be tested every 2 years. The last testing results available were dated May 2020 and showed a level of 1.0 piCu/L.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has received several grants allowing the program to obtain new equipment to replace damaged and worn out equipment. The center also has plans to remodel the playground spaces making use of a grant that was received.

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

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- Documentation of daily activities was not being maintained.

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- Children were observed to not wash their hands immediately prior to eating.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Documentation was missing for several months for both fire and tornado drills.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Testing results were expired and need to be renewed.

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.
-- A copy of the planned curriculum was not posted on the day of the visit. -- NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.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.
-- Crib mattresses with torn waterproof covers need to be replaced. Bedding is required for all cribs, cots, sleeping mats. The outdoor climbing structure needs to have loose hardware tightened and missing hardware replaced, or children restricted from use.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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.