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

Name of Center: P.A.C.E.S. **Enrollment:** 142 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46458

Street: 1600 8th St **City:** Perry Iowa **Zip** 50220 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 1600 8th St, Perry, IA, 50220

Director's Name: Mary Hillman **Phone Number:** 515-465-8264

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lila Modlin **E-Mail:** mary.hillman@g.perry.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 04-18-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-11-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	0	24	140	164
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-19-2024

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 4/18/24. The director was present throughout the visit. The on-site supervisor was present for portions of 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.

P.A.C.E.S. is a child care program located in the Perry school that was given permission to open under HHS (formerly known as DHS) licensing on 12/21/15. Prior to this date, the center was under the Department of Education's supervision. The center serves children ages Kindergarten through school-age. The center uses their own curriculum in their teaching of children. During the school year, the center is open 6:00am - 8:05am and 2:50pm - 6:00pm. If there is no school, there is no programming. For nine weeks during the summer months, the program is open 6:00am - 6:00pm. The center uses several classroom (capacity 24 Room 222; capacity 24 Room 220; capacity 24 Room 219 (not used this year); capacity 43 Room 429; capacity 34 Room 435; capacity 24 Room 352; capacity 24 room 323) as well as the outdoor playground, cafeteria and indoor gym.

The center is overseen by a Board. The director of this program is Mary Hillman. Mary has a BA degree from Iowa State University. Mary has been with this program for a number of years so she has experience working in this field. Lila Modlin is the on-site supervisor of this program. Lila has a BA degree and she has also worked at this program for a number of years.

During the visit, children were observed doing different STEM activities, watching a video, going outside to play on the playground, and engaged in a group activity being facilitated by staff. Children gave this consultant sufficient answers as to when and how often they wash their hands and where they go for monthly fire and tornado drills. Staff were engaged with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has many community partnerships and an overall good relationship with the community. (Iowa Public Television, Blank Children's Hospital, United Way, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, etc. are just a few of the community/'area partnerships).

The center is closed for several days throughout the year so staff can get professional development training completed and other certifications.

The center has a good partnership with the school. The center has access to the school nurse, food department, principal, teachers, etc.

The center has access to the school gym when weather does not permit outdoor play.

The director has many years of experience working in child care (going on 26 years) as does the on-site supervisor. Both pay close attention to detail and are thorough.

Many center forms are also in Spanish because of the high number of Hispanic families served by the center.

The center utilizes walkie-talkies for better communication between different areas of the center.

Several staff attended the center when they were children. There are several currently enrolled children where there are different generations of people (their parents) who have attended the center in the past. There are several tenured staff who work at this program and have for many years.

The center sets specific time aside for all children to do homework and focus on an enrichment program based on specific themes throughout the year. Many of the things the center does are related to and involving STEM practice.

The center has wrap around services.

The center has "Friday Fun Night" every Friday afternoon to end the week.

Children's art work was displayed on the" Hall of Pride".

The center has a Facebook page.

The center has again applied for and received several grants within the past year that went towards improvements for the center (i.e. equipment, games, STEM kits, electronic equipment, etc.). The director is highly involved in grant writing and has been for many years, applying for and receiving grants to continuously keep the program not only open, but current with the times.

The center participates in 5210 Iowa Healthy Kids Program as well as Girls on the Run.

For field trips, staff and children were like shirts to make them more easily identifiable.

Weekly staff meetings are held.

Additional security measures have been put in place over the past year.

Renovations have been made to the gym over the past year, including new flooring. The center uses the gym at times for large motor activities and when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

Enrollment has again increased over the past year indicating a need in the community.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: One child did not have a doctor or a dentist listed. The names, addresses, and phone numbers are required for all children enrolled.

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.
There are several bolts longer than two threads being exposed that will need another nut put on each of them. This is under the platform areas of the large climbing structure.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 2/16/24 - 2/19/24. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The boiler inspection expires in 11/2024.

For field trips, the center has access to school bus drivers and take school buses to different destinations.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff will need to upload professional development training into I-Power. The instructions and video were emailed to the director after the visit concluded.

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

*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.