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

Name of Center: Vermeer Yellow Iron Academy **Enrollment:** 123 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43969

Street: 780 250th AVE **City:** Pella Iowa **Zip** 50219 **County:** Marion

Mailing Address: 780 250th AVE, Pella, IA, 50219

Director's Name: Krista Sanchez **Phone Number:** 641-621-8940

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** vermeer@brighthorizons.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-17-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-31-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-22-2022

Comments : 5-6-22 - date of compliance, due every three years

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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	24	56	50	162
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 03-24-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Vermeer Yellow Iron Academy opened in August 2014. This center is owned by Bright Horizons Children's Centers. It's located in a single standing building. There is a secured entrance. The centers provides child care services to children ages infancy through school age. Krista Sanchez is the director. Krista started as director at this center in April 2022. She worked at a Bright Horizons daycare center in Des Moines prior to coming to the program. Stefanie McGee has been an on-site supervisor since 2024 and has worked at the center since 2017. She earned an Early Childhood Education Associates of Science.

An unannounced licensing visit took place on 3/17/25. Krista was not present the date of the visit. I met with with OSS McGee. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. All program areas were observed at that time. Staff were actively providing childcare at the time of the visit. The rooms are divided up to keep children of differing ages separate. The center is clean, bright, attractive and equipped with a satisfactory variety of new child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children. The classrooms are self-contained with phones, restrooms, and direct exits to the outdoors.

Program Observations:

The center contains rooms for infants, toddlers, Young Preschool (2's) classrooms, Preschool classroom (3's), PreK class (3/4's), Kindergarten Prep class (4/5's) and school age classrooms. The center also contains a Movement Matters room. Staffs' interactions with the children were observed to be positive. Classrooms schedules and lesson plans are posted by classrooms entrances. Classrooms that serve children ages toddler and up have well defined interest centers. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed:

The center has a full kitchen, and one full time cook. The center serves breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus are on a five week rotation. Menus reflect CACFP requirements are followed.

Thermometers are in the refrigerator and freezer units per requirements. Temperatures were below recommendations of 40 degrees or below for cooling and zero degrees or below for freezing temperatures. I observed dry food storage. No food was observed on the floor. Food was stored in cabinets. All food items were kept in sealed containers. No expired food items were noted. One percent milk is served. The Director is aware CACFP approved foods must be served.

Center Health and Safety:

Children were observed in the classrooms. In each room staff were actively engaged with the children's activities throughout the visit. However, it was noted if staff need a break, to run errands (laundry), etc... the OSS could cover so classrooms would not be out of ratio.

The center may utilize volunteers. They should sign a statement indicating they have been informed of responsibilities as mandatory reporters. They must undergo record check process if:
The individual is included in meeting the required child/staff ratio.
Has direct responsibility for a child or children.
Has access to child or children when no other staff is present.

The center OSS and I discussed administration of prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. We discussed that children with allergies must have an Allergy Action Plan on file, posted in the room with the child and available to employees. Several children currently enrolled in the program have diagnosed allergies. I observed the plans in each room.

Storage and maintenance of a first aid kit is reviewed annually. Kits should be labeled and contain all items on the checklist from IDPH. The center contains an ill/injured area. Children are kept comfortable in this area until parents can pick them up.

Environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment (the center is all electric) were reviewed. The center contains 15 non-battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors which are working and inspected once a month and documented. Radon testing was conducted in May 2023 rate of less than 4 pCi/L. Testing is due every five years and should be conducted in the winter. The building was constructed after 1971 there for a lead-based paint assessment is not required. The building is on city water therefore water analysis is not required. The school is heated and cooled with a geothermal system. Air is forced through ceiling vents. Thermostats are in each room. Ventilation and air quality was adequate on the visit. The center contains no fuel burning appliances.

Overhead lighting is provided by fluorescent lighting, and the center contains five large windows in each room providing natural lighting. Windows can be opened to assist in air quality.

General regulations regarding safety policies and procedures were reviewed. The program can review current or new cleaners with IDPH. Hand washing and food prep sinks should be designated and not used interchangeably.

Each child in the program should have 35 square feet of usable floor space. The rooms are designed to allow adequate space for all activities. Square feet does not appear to be an issue in classrooms. All program areas were clean during the visit. A hand washing sink is present in each room and in the restrooms.

We discussed emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. Ratio was met and maintained. Staff keep personal belongings in cabinetry. Children do not have access to this area.

The facility has fish in the preschool room and five-year-old classroom. Tanks are well kept. Plants are in each room and are on the safe plant list. Gardens outdoors contain all nontoxic plants.

Sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed. Overall, the building was clean. Restrooms were clean and contained an adequate amount of toileting supplies. Each restroom has ventilation as required.

Children do not have access to the kitchen.

Center Playground:

The center has five playground areas. All the playgrounds have turf for surfacing as well as concrete paths for riding toys. Fencing surrounds the playgrounds. There are designated playgrounds for the following age groups: infants, toddlers, 2's, Preschool and PreK and KPrep and School Age. The playgrounds have age-appropriate outdoor playground equipment and toys. Each child should have a minimum of 75 square feet of space for gross motor activities. Capacity for the area should not be exceeded.

The Child Care Weather watch is utilized when outdoor play may be questionable due to weather conditions. Playground inspections are conducted and documented monthly.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The center does not provide transportation and takes field trips with school buses. Field trips are taken occasionally. The children take walks in the community, so each parent signs a field trip permission form. They are in each child's file. A list of child emergency numbers and a first aid kit should be taken each trip. Field trip ratios are followed.

Center Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior, redirection, modeling, and conflict resolution techniques. Required written policies are provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook.

Staff files are reviewed annually. Oragami is the program used to store and track this information. Information reviewed by HHS are Cpr, 1st aid, Mandatory child abuse training, continuing education and professional development hours (due annually). All staff have updated physicals. These are due every three years. All fingerprints are current (every four years) and Iowa Criminal Record checks (2 years). CPR/1st Aid is current for all staff.

Child files are reviewed annually. All children have current physicals and immunizations on file (but 5 physicals). This is less than 10% and not a pattern of disregard. All children have signed medical and dental information, pick up authorizations and emergency contact information.

Annual staff training held on emergency plans were conducted in October last year. The Director developed a new Emergency Preparedness Plan for this center including intoxicate parents. A template of the requirements for an accepted EPP was sent to the center on 5/31/24. All staff were trained on the plan and signed and dated acknowledgement of such.

Required notices and postings are present. Emergency procedures maps are posted by each door. A schedule is posted in the classrooms. A No Smoking sign is posted inside the main door where parents drop off and pick up children. Emergency numbers are posted including, Fire, Ambulance and Poison Control.

The center posts communicable diseases on the front door when necessary. A class schedule is posted. Discovery Driven Learning Curriculum is implemented daily, and lesson plans are on file.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has spacious, well furnished classrooms. The center has NAEYC accreditation. Children are afforded large motor play on a daily basis as the center has large motor play rooms that are used on inclement weather days. Bright Horizons provides a great deal of support to their centers.

The Director is friendly and willing to learn.

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

No items were observed to have a pattern of disregard the date of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center be in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The Director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

IHHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant with IDPH. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Mandi Lauderman and Tammy Merrill, Nurse Consultants (Iowa Department of Public Health) serve as CCNCs for this center. The center is responsible for contacting CCNC Lauderman for consultation regarding health and safety issues such as hand washing, outdoor play area regulations, toppling or tipping hazards. CCNCs have not provided consultation this year.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, IQ4K, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org CCR&R Consultant Brenda O'Holloran is the consultant for your area. Consultant Brenda O'Holloran has provided consultation several times to the program this year.

I have contact with them Jan-May of 2024, 4 visits in that timeframe; one of which was a referral from you.

Brenda OHalloran,
Child Care Consultant
Jasper, Marion, and Poweshiek Counties
Child Care Resource & Referral of Central Iowa
Child Guidance Center Orchard Place
bohalloran@orchardplace.org

This is best practice and duly noted.

*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.