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

Name of Center: Raccoon River Preschool **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 45927

Street: 28059 Fairground Rd **City:** Adel Iowa **Zip** 50003 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 28059 Fairground Rd, Adel, IA, 50003

Director's Name: Betsi Ausdemore **Phone Number:** 515-444-3492

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amanda Taborga **E-Mail:** raccoonriverpreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-03-2024

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:** 12-04-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-25-2022

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

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	30	0	30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-04-2024

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 1/3/24. The director was present for the entire visit and the on-site supervisor was present for a portion of the 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. COVID protocols were also reviewed.

Raccoon River Preschool (formerly known as New Hope Beginnings Preschool) is a program that was given permission to open on 9/8/15. In 8/2022, the program moved and changed their name. The program is located in a building on the Dallas County Fairgrounds in Adel, IA. The program serves children ages three to five years of age using the Creative Learning Curriculum. The preschool prefers that children are fully toilet trained or close to being toilet trained before being enrolled. There are AM and PM classes (8:45am - 11:15am and 12:00pm - 2:45pm). The capacity of classroom #1 is 16 children. Capacity of classroom #2 is 14 children. There is a smaller classroom within the second classroom that can have no more than eight children in it at one time.

The preschool is overseen by a Board. The director of this program as of 5/24/18 is Betsi Ausdemore. Betsi has a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Services. Betsi also has past experience working in child care. The on-site supervisor of this program is Amanda Taborga. Amanda has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were in the bigger classroom and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were spaced out and going back and forth between the different groups of children and engaged with children and their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This preschool meets a growing demand in the Adel community. Enrollment has again increased over the past year.

Parent participation is highly encouraged. Special events are scheduled throughout the school-year for parents to attend. There is also a parent advisory board. The director stated they have a good relationship with their families.

The preschool has their own website. The center also has their own Facebook page for more communication with parents.

Lead teachers have degrees.

There is a secure entrance during preschool hours of operation.

There are good community partnerships with local businesses such as the library, Lion's Club, Fareway, ISU Extension Office, Fairgrounds, 4-H, etc.).

The program participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Staff stated they work well together and enjoy working with each other.

Good child/staff interactions were observed.

The program works closely with AEA, CCR&R, and their nurse consultant as needed.

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

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 still some bolts along the fenced in playground and gate areas that need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing and/or reversed so that the bolts exposed are facing outside the fenced in playground area. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 9/28/23 - 10/1/23. The center is currently working with a radon mitigation specialist as levels in classrooms came back above the 4.0 cutoff. Retesting will again be needed to work to get levels down below 4.0. After levels get down below 4.0, the center will remain on a two-year testing plan.

The annual furnace inspection was completed 2/16/23 so it is again coming due again soon.

The program will bring in different agencies for presentations to children. The only field trips taken are walking field trips around the Fairgrounds.

I-Power was discussed at the visit as was Playground and Brightwheel.

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.