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

Name of Center: The Voyage Early Learning Journey **Enrollment:** 90 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49740

Street: 1101 SE Gateway Dr **City:** Grimes Iowa **Zip** 50111 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1101 SE Gateway Dr, Grimes, IA, 50111

Director's Name: Kristen Miner and Candice Langworthy **Phone Number:** 515-986-6203

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hannah Gibson **E-Mail:** kminer@thevoyageelj.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-11-2024

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:** 05-03-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-21-2024

Comments : Johnston - Grimes Fire Marshal. State requirements are that these inspections are done at least 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 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	48	24	89	34	195
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-12-2024

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 6/11/24. The director and the on-site supervisor were present throughout 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.

The Voyage Early Learning Journey is a center in Grimes, IA that was given permission to open on 4/2/18. The center serves children ages six weeks in age to roughly 10 years is age using the High Scope Learning Curriculum and the Creative Learning Curriculum. There are a total of 11 classrooms and then also an indoor gym.

The owner of this center is Kristen Miner. Kristen has a BA degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Education Leadership. Kristen previously worked for several years in the school setting. Candice Langworthy is the director. Candice has her CDA and was previously the on-site supervisor. Previous to working at this center, Candice had worked for many years at another center which included time as an assistant director. The on-site supervisor is Hannah Gibson. Hannah meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor based on her professional development training and past experience working in child care.

During the visit children were observed napping in cribs, having a diaper changed, washing their hands, sitting down and eating lunch, engaged in large group story activity facilitated by staff, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations present in classrooms. Staff were engaged with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment is lower during the summer months, but still steady overall.

The center was clean and nicely decorated.

There is an indoor gym when weather or conditions do not permit outdoor play.

The center has a website and they use the online application, Brightwheel. Information such as children's daily sheets (if children under two years of age), food menu, handbooks, staff, etc. can be found in this online application.

Security cameras are present. There is also a secure entrance into the building.

Staff reportedly work well together. There is a good mix of tenured and newer staff of all different ages.

Quarterly all-staff meetings are held.

The center has a full-time cook.

The playground is large with several different opportunities for children to engage with on the playground.

The director and on-site supervisor are organized.

The director and on-site supervisor have a good working relationship with one another and able to easily bounce ideas off of one another.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 2 newer staff were missing the statement forms in their files.

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: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 5
Information lacking: Several children were missing dental contact information. This appears to be more of an issue with the Brightwheel application the center is using. The director plans to reach out to Brightwheel about this issue.

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
Tylenol for children under two years of age also requires a doctor's note.

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
Schedules need to be adjusted slightly as discussed at the visit for one of the three year old classrooms and a four year old classroom.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 1/25/23 - 1/27/23. 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 annual furnace inspection was from 5/21/24.

I-Power and IQ4K were both discussed at the visit. Several staff need to upload training certificates to their I - Power profiles.

It is still recommended the two bolts on the playground splashpad be capped. This consultant was informed the splashpad is not in use and children know they are not to play on/in this area.

A hand washing sign is needed in one of the three year old classrooms by the sink.

The most current monthly playground inspection form along with the playground handbook was emailed to the center 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.