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

Name of Center: Wonder Years Academy **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27725

Street: 3838 Martin Luther King Jr PKW **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3838 Martin Luther King Jr PKW, Des Moines, IA, 50310

Director's Name: Laura Trainer **Phone Number:** 515-255-6184

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jill Heck (pending approval in I - Power) **E-Mail:** laura_trainer@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-06-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-13-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-26-2024

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	16	12	21	13	62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 03-07-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 3/6/25. The director was present during the visit, but was in ratio in one of the classrooms at the time 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 (again, only briefly this year and not entirely because of the previous day's winter storm), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Wonder Years Academy is a center located in Des Moines, IA. The center is affiliated with United Way as well as Drake Head Start and is overseen by a Board. The center serves children six weeks in age to 11 years in age throughout the year. There are five classrooms. The Creative Learning Curriculum is used by the center for lesson planning which also incorporates ELAP. Laura Trainer has been the director at this center since 1992 and meets the qualifications for her position. Jill Heck is the pending on-site supervisor.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, having a diaper changed, being bottle fed, eating lunch, washing hands, and engaged in a large-group story activity about fire fighters that was being facilitated by staff. Staff and children questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is affiliated with United Way as well as Drake Head Start and Early Head Start. The center has a number of community partnerships (local church, food pantry, Hy-Vee, book buddies, etc).

The center participates in ITERS/ECERS, the food program (CACFP), and IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The director and several staff members have worked at the center for a number of years. There are a lot of tenured staff who have been with the center for at least a year.

The center uses the Pro-Care system for parents signing their children into/out of the center as well as for staff to sign in/out.

There is a secure entrance.

There is a safety and health board for parents to view and obtain health and safety tips.

Bi-monthly staff meetings are held. Individual classroom meetings are also held. In addition, the director has regular meetings throughout the year with other United Way center directors.

The center has an office manager.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The director is highly organized.

Staff questioned continue to have a good working relationship with each other.

The center has a website.

All staff are or have completed PBIS training and going on year two of this training.

Within the past year, the center has added an outdoor garden and has purchased some new equipment (cots).

The center employs a part-time cook.

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.
Because of the new fence around an area of the playground, the bolts along the fence corners and gates will need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
All children's bottles should be labeled. There was one bottle that was not labeled. This was due in part to the sanitizing/cleaning of bottles and the label coming off.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 2/8/22 - 2/15/22, 12/20/21 - 12/27/21, and 10/2021 - 1/2022. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Testing for radon can now be done every five years. 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 completed in 10/2024.

The center has a van they use for transportation on field trips. Regular maintenance is performed on the van.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit as was Brightwheel and Playground. The center currently uses Pro-Care.

As stated at last year's visit, Jill Heck is the pending on-site supervisor. It appears she will meet requirements based on her BA degree, past experience, and professional development training. She will have to request this role in I-Power.

Nothing should be in the cribs or attached to the cribs (this includes sound/vibration devices). The sound/vibration devices were removed from two cribs during the visit.

In the four/five/school-age classroom's hard copy Emergency Preparedness written plan, this consultant's old phone number was listed.

*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.