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

Name of Center: Greater Connections Childhood Development Center **Enrollment:** 130 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52225

Street: 1405 N Lincoln ST **City:** Creston Iowa **Zip** 50801 **County:** Union

Mailing Address: 1405 N Lincoln ST, Creston, IA, 50801

Director's Name: Melissa Zellmer **Phone Number:** 641-782-7117

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sara Bovaird **E-Mail:** melissa.zellmer@greaterconnections.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-18-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-26-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-05-2023

Comments :

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	40	52	56	30	178
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 09-28-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Greater Connections Childhood Development Center is a new center that opened on 8-1-2023. This is a beautiful new building that has capacity for 178 children. The building is owned by the hospital, and is run by a board. I Think I Can Child Care and I Think I Can Before and After School Program closed both locations and are now located at Greater Connections Childhood Development Center.
Melissa Zellmer is the director, and she was the Director at the I Think I Can centers. Sara Bovaird is the on-site supervisor. There are 130 children enrolled.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks wonderful and all the rooms have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate furnishings, and toys.
There are fourteen program room. Two infant rooms, transition room, two one year old rooms, multipurpose room, three - two year old rooms, two three year old rooms, one four year old room, two school age rooms. One of the three year old rooms had plastic bags accessible to children, these are considered a health and safety hazard. Please make sure to move all plastic bags to an area not accessible to the children. There is also a multipurpose room. There are car seat cubbies that are very convenient for parents. The school age rooms are the tornado shelter. The daily sheets looked good. Some rooms weren't being used at the time of my licensing visit.
All occupied program rooms were observed and were in ratio. The children were having fun in a variety of activities. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive, nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children.

Nutrition:
The center has a wonderful kitchen. The local school prepares and delivers the breakfast and lunch and the center prepares the daily snack. The cook from I think I Can works at the new center, she has over twenty years of experience. Menus were posted. The center participates in the federal food program.

Health and Safety:
Medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. The center uses bleach/water for sanitizing and disinfecting. The three step bottles are used 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Bleach water for sanitizing and disinfecting.
Radon testing will be completed within the first year of occupancy in the new center.
The building has all electric appliances. Maintenance issues are taken care of by the hospital maintenance staff.

Playground:
The playground will be completed next summer. They are looking at a nature playground. The playground will be fenced with three areas; infant/mobile infant, two, three and four year olds and school age. Part of the playground will be padded surfacing.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide transportation services. The school bus provides transportation services.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read and were in good order.
Child files were read and were in good order.
Melissa has staff meetings at least once a month, they are held on the second Monday of each month.
Brightwheel is a child care app that is used.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Your new center is a wonderful resource for the community. The staff are very excited and proud of the new center. Melissa is very enthusiastic and supportive of the staff.
Several staff are getting their CDA's and are participating in the TEACH program. Melissa is hiring more staff.
The children and parents are very happy to be in the new center.
The board is very supportive.
The center will apply for IQ4K.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 8-1-2023 to 8-1-2025.

*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.