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

Name of Center: Newman Childcare & Preschool **Enrollment:** 287 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22029

Street: 2050 S McKinley **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 2050 S McKinley, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Kendra Mennen **Phone Number:** 641-423-0168

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hillary Kehm-Chuck, Tamera Richardson **E-Mail:** Kmennen@newmancatholic.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-01-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-24-2022

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 X 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	37	18	199	70	324
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 12-06-2022

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Newman Childcare and Preschool on 12-01-22 where I met with center director Kendra Mennen. Kendra took over as the director in August 2019 and is well qualified for the position having 17 years experience and training in early childhood care and education prior to that. This program is housed in a space that is adjoined to the Newman Catholic School in Mason City overseen by a board of directors and operated as a non-profit organization. The center provides full range daycare, formal 3 year old preschool, 4 year old preschool, and Pre-Kindergarten classes, and before/after school programming for school age children. There are currently 287 children enrolled in the center served by 56 employees. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the center remains the same as in prior visits. The center makes use of 8 classrooms for the daycare which are determined primarily by age and designated by Color names. The program also makes use of 4 classroom spaces of the connecting wing of the main school building for the formal preschool programs. The infant area consists of 4 classroom spaces though all have a 3 wall design and are connected by open corridors. Two of the spaces have half walls, and the center is planning to construct a half wall in one of the other spaces housing the older toddlers. The remaining classrooms of the daycare setting are individual rooms though they do share common restroom facilities, and two of the rooms are accessed by a connecting doorway from the other classrooms. Each of the rooms have a secondary exit providing direct access to the outdoors. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction but two, (Orange and Green rooms) has exits that did not open freely. The door that is binding does need to be repaired, and staff need to open and check doors daily to ensure that they are not blocked or frozen so that they open easily and freely. Emergency evacuation information was not posted by each exit, and some only had diagram instructions. As a reminder emergency evacuation plans that include both diagram and written instructions are required to be posted by all exits from all programming spaces. Each room has restroom facilities either located in the classroom or access to shared restroom facilities directly from the classroom. Each room has additional sinks in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Rooms with younger children also have changing stations located in the classrooms. While there were some minor maintenance issues such as damaged paint and drywall none rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern. With the exception of a divided infant room and the preschool rooms located in the school building all of the rooms have windows that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has a large open floor plan that is divided into activity centers though the placement of low shelves, furniture, and play structures. The design of the rooms and arrangement of the furnishing is such that they do not create any blind areas.

Each activity center was well stocked with materials that were in good repair and generally appropriate to the ages of the children present. It was noted that some of the toddler rooms did have some toys that did have small parts that could present a choking risk and these should either be removed or kept in storage where they can be brought out for supervised play. This also included toys that were marked as having been produced for restaurant chains as promotional toys which are prohibited and need to be removed. Two of the classrooms had also made play structures from large cardboard boxes and while not prohibited staff do need to be aware that these can create issues for limited sight lines, and may also be a concern for fire safety as additional combustible material in the classroom. Incorporating these as part of a specific curriculum theme with a limited time of use can help to reduce these risks while also being a way to increase the engagement the

children have in the classroom. Each room had a daily schedule and copy of the curriculum posted. The center does have a general rotation of planned curriculum themes that are followed throughout the year and the planned theme at the time of the visit was "Winter Wonderland". The artwork of the children that was posted did reflect the planned curriculum themes.

Good interactions were observed in each room with the staff being actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The staff did follow the planned schedule which during the time of my visit included lunch and nap time. Because meals are served in a lunchroom area outside of the classrooms the schedule does stagger the lunch service. For those children that were waiting for lunch service the staff were observed to be playing with the children, reading stories, or attending to other needs such as diapering/toileting. Good behavior management practices were observed with the staff using proactive methods of engagement with the children that recognized and encouraged positive positive behaviors. This included recognizing positive behaviors, reviewing expected behavior, and redirection. Ratio was maintained as required in each classroom.

Good health and safety policies and procedures were in place on the day of my visit. I was able to observe several diaper changes during the time of my visit and all staff followed the posted procedures. Good cleaning practices were observed with the staff directing children out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas that are not readily accessible to the children. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and generally contained items sufficient to address most common first aid needs. Safe sleep practices were followed in the infant rooms. Bedding was provided for all cots and cribs and were properly fitted. Staff were in the immediate area when infants were on the floor doing Tummy Time but it was reviewed that if staff need to leave the area to retrieve a bottle or some other item they should roll the infants onto their backs even if they do not plan to be away from the child for more than a moment.

The center uses the school kitchen but employs a separate cook and supplies for meal preparation. Good food storage, handling, and preparation procedures were observed on the day of my visit. Food is transported in hot/cold holding cafeteria carts in covered containers and staff wear gloves, and use measured scoops when serving. The staff did sit and eat with the children both providing supervision at the table and modeling good eating habits. One issue that was noted and discussed in the infant room is that while lap feeding is allowed infants under 6 months of age must be fed in an upright position with guidance on positioning being reviewed.

The center has two playgrounds with one for the preschool age children and one for the school age children. While the school does have control over the school age playground the center does make use of that equipment with older children and does report any damaged items to the school for repair. That playground uses wood mulch for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present. The preschool playground has two climbing structures for the children with one intended for older children, one for younger. Rubber mulch is used for cushioning ground cover. The rubber mulch has been added or redistributed so that there was sufficient fall surfacing in fall zones. The equipment was observed to be generally in good repair however a screw attaching the slide chute to the frame of the structure on one of the units was observed to have backed a substantial distance. While it did not create an immediate safety concern either as an entanglement risk, or reducing the structural integrity of the unit it does need to be reseated and other hardware should also be checked. The preschool playground space is enclosed by chain link fencing which was in good repair. A storage shed is present to store additional toys and materials for the children to play with. Shade is provided by the building, the equipment, and maturing trees. The center also has access to a large grassy area, and paved areas where the children can play.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center uses a combination of electronic and hard copy file maintenance and does have a self-audit tracking system which was found to be accurate. The self-audit did identify that 27 children needed an updated physical. One issue that was noted is that while the center does have allergy plans there was inconsistency in the plans, and the plans present were only for food related allergies. It was reviewed that an allergy response plan is required for all allergies including medication and environmental allergies. The self-audit for the staff files identified 2 that had an expired physical, and 6 that needed an updated 1st Aid/CPR training. Kendra did report that the center has scheduled a training for those employees during the Christmas break.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program continually strives to provide the highest level of care possible. The center participates in the Quality Rating Scale program which seeks to implement best practice and the center is rated a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale. The center is preparing to participate in the IQ4K program which will replace the QRS program with updated best practice recommendations.

Kendra identified that the center does have plans to update the playground with removing the older preschool climbing structure and replacing it with a structure that will have more utility for a larger age range including toddlers.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 6

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 27

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Postings were not present by all exits from all programming spaces. Some postings contained only diagram instructions and did not include written instructions as required.

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
-- One emergency exit door was observed to be difficult to open due to the door binding on the frame. Another was blocked but exterior ice/snow accumulation. Emergency exits must be checked daily to ensure that they open freely and fully.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.