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

Name of Center: Learn and Play PS & DCC - Cedar Falls **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36290

Street: 4710 Cedar Heights DR **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 4710 Cedar Heights DR, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Mary Sires & Tammy Lies **Phone Number:** 319-266-7944

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mary Sires and Tammy Lies **E-Mail:** sires_mary@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-10-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-18-2023

Comments : The program added an addition to their existing building. The new addition was approved for use by the fire marshal on 04/03/24.

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 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	13	33	81	0	127
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

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: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/10/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Learn and Play Preschool and Daycare Center in Cedar Falls. I met with Tammy Lies, the co-director for the center. Ms. Lies has worked for the Learn and Play organization since May 2007 and was previously a co-director at the Evansdale site. Mary Sires is the co-director and owner of the center. There are ten staff members employed by the center that care for children and they have three high school students visit the center to clean.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The center opened in August 2011. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm and serves infants through preschool aged children. There are currently 64 children enrolled. The program has an IQ4K level of 1.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room (Bunnies), toddler, two and younger three-year-old room (Dinosaurs), and three, four and five-year-old room (Monkeys). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, feelings and pictures of the children and their families. There is an area for circle time in the rooms for the older children.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, listening, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, play dough, science, puppets, writing, math, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

Cribs and cots are used to nap.

There are two bathrooms in the hallway of the original building. One bathroom has two toilets and one sink. The other bathroom has one toilet, one urinal and one sink. There are bathrooms located in the classrooms in the new addition. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are sinks in each room and handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. Diaper changing procedures were posted near all the diaper changing tables. I observed diaper changes and procedures are followed.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Activities are based upon weekly themes. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review. The teachers assess the children a minimum of three times each year using the ASQ Assessment tool for children ages six weeks through two-years-old and the Creative Curriculum GOLD assessments for children who are three, four and five-years-old. They also complete ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 assessments.

The center uses the ProCare app for their daily sheets and to communicate with the families for all ages.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram near the outdoor exit in the Dinosaur and Monkey rooms. Post a daily schedule in the Dinosaur room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2024 but Ms. Lies states she did not receive the results. Previous results were within EPA guidelines. Ms. Lies is going to check on the results. If they cannot be found the program will have to re-do the radon tests. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. The carbon monoxide detectors are part of the fire system on the ceiling of each of the rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/18/23.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center serves the children breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Judi Dark is the primary cook. Meals are served in the rooms. Family style is used in the Monkey room and the staff members serve the younger children. The center uses a four-week rotation of menus. Dishes from all rooms are returned to the kitchen where they are typically put through the dishwasher. The center has ordered a new dishwasher so the center is currently using the three-step method to wash dishes. Menus and allergies were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were thermometers present in all the refrigerators and freezers.

The center provides the infants one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If parents prefer a different brand, they must supply their own. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized in the dishwasher or by the three-step method.

The center uses Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

I observed or discussed diaper changes in the room and proper procedures are followed.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. There is a resource shelf available in this area as well. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program currently only has one outdoor play area. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. There is a concrete path for riding toys. There are playhouses, sensory tables, rocking toys, a transportation center and dramatic play equipment. There are picnic tables, and a tarp is available to provide shade. The center plans to develop an additional playground area.

Staff members were observed to be amazing with the children. They counted children as the left and entered rooms. They were actively engaged in activities and had fun activities to help teach the children colors, counting, etc. They encouraged children to use their imaginations during play and interacted with the children at their level. Staff members had all the children outside for a large period of time to enjoy the weather before it became too warm. Staff members also utilized the gym for gross motor play. Staff members had good reminders for the children to wash their hands. The offered choices and provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time in care.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 1. They have not received their certificate yet.

The center has a newly constructed wing to the existing building. They are operating out of two of the three new rooms. The former rooms for these age groups in the original building are now gross motor rooms for those specific age groups.

There are cameras in the classrooms and the hallways for security.

The center has an abundance of supplies and activities for the children.

The hallways are decorated with pictures of the children and there are pictures of the families in the entrance.

The center provided a Program Wide Early Childhood Positive Behavior and Supports Cohort Training. The certificate is good until 05/05/28. The door in the entrance is decorated with PBIS information.

The center practices intruder drills in addition to fire and tornado drills.

Ms. Lies states there is great communication between staff members. They have a group chat to communicate. She states

the staff members compliment each other on what they do.

Ms. Lies states she has dependable staff members.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Tammy Lies as a director at this site. She was previously a director at the Evansdale site. Mary Sires remains a director also.

*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.