

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

Name of Center: TUG's Daycare & Preschool **Enrollment:** 155 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 22036

Street: 950 N Illinois AVE **City:** Mason City **Iowa** **Zip:** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 950 N Illinois AVE, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Nikole Benson **Phone Number:** 641-424-9023

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** nikolebenson@ymail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-09-2020

Licensing Visit ☒ **Unannounced Visit** ☒ **Off Year Visit** ☐ **Administrative Change** ☐

LICENSING VISITS

New Application ☐ **Re-Application** ☒ **NA** ☐

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-30-2018

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: ☒ **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: ☒ **Profit** **Non-Profit** ☐ **NA** ☐

Accreditation: **Accredited** **NAEYC** **NSACA** **Other** ☒ **NA** ☐

Program Serves: ☒ **Infants (0-23 mo.)** ☒ **2 Years** ☒ **Preschool-Age** ☒ **School-Age**

Get-Well **Evening Care** **Special Needs**

SCHEDULE: ☒ **Year-round** **School-Year** **Summer Only**

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	26	17	35	27	105
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 08-01-2019 to 08-01-2021
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 07-28-2020

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Tugs Daycare and Preschool on 07-09-20 where I met with the on-site supervisor Sarah Aronsen as the center director and owner Nikole Benson was not in. Nikole has been the owner and director of this center since 2011. The center is located in a free standing building which has been remodeled and added to over the past several years as the program has grown. The center provides daycare and formal preschool programming serving infants through school age children. The center also has a second program providing before and after school care which begins at the school during the school year and then transitions to the center. There are approximately 260 children enrolled between the two programs. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit with the exception of staff files which were kept in a locked office and were not available.

The physical facilities and general layout of classrooms remain the same as observed in prior visits. Each classroom was observed to be clean with only minor maintenance issues that did not create an immediate safety concern. Maintenance issues such as the septic system cited in the prior report have been corrected. Each classrooms has a direct secondary exit to the outdoors. It was noted that the doors for the classrooms located on the north end of the east side had the deadbolt locks engaged, and items had been stacked in front of the door of the 3 year old classroom during nap time. These exits must remain clear and accessible at all times. Emergency exits with locking mechanisms must either be unlocked when the center is in operation, or the lock must disengage without secondary action when the door handle is operated. Evacuation signs that include written and diagram instructions were posted by each of the emergency exits but as a reminder these must be posted all exits from the programming spaces including interior exits. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. Bathrooms are located off the main hallways and several of the classrooms have sinks in the room to facilitate hand washing.

Each room had a good layout with toys and materials that were appropriate to the ages of the children present and which were in good repair. The arrangement of the rooms did not create any blind areas and provided children with room to play. Each classrooms had a daily schedule and curriculum posted. Good interactions were observed with all staff being actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs.

Good health and safety practices were observed and the center has implemented several temporary procedures as required in response to the current Coronavirus pandemic. This includes limiting access to the center, checking temperatures of children and visitors, enhanced cleaning, pre-portioned meals, and removal of plush toys and dramatic play clothes. In the infant room good diaper changing procedures were observed though it was noted that some staff did not deglove between handling soiled and clean diapers. Some over the counter medications were not labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Good storage practices were observed for chemical cleaners, medications, and other items that could be a safety risk to children.

Good food storage, handling, and service practices were generally observed in the kitchen though some food items kept in classrooms were not properly stored. As a reminder all food items whether intended for consumption by the children or not must be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal has been broken. A menu was posted and identified food options that are consistent with Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines.

The playground was not fully reviewed due to weather conditions but was observed to appear to be in good condition. As noted earlier the sewer work had been completed. The center uses wood chips for fall surfacing. The playground is fully fenced and divided into three areas with one for toddlers, one with climbing structures for preschool and school age children, and a large open green space. Several trees, and gazebo structures provide shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. The center does maintain a self-audit system to track missing and expired elements in both staff and child files. As noted the staff files were not available and will be reviewed during the next full licensing visit. In reviewing child files the self-audit identified that 34 child files needed either an initial or updated physical. It is understood that some elements in both child and staff files such as physicals, FBI Fingerprints, and some training will be delayed due to entities that provide those services being closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The center will need to continue to track information to ensure that those records are updated as soon as possible once those providers resume services.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the QRS program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

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

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: 34

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.

-- Some over the counter medications were not labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged.

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.

-- Evacuation maps were not posted by all exits from all programming spaces.

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.

-- Deadbolt locks must be disengaged when the center is in operation, and access to emergency exits must remain clear at all times even during limited periods such as when moving furnishings at nap time.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.