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

Name of Center: Maharishi Preschool **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 23211

Street: 804 Dr Robert Keith Wallace Dr **City:** Fairfield Iowa **Zip** 52556 **County:** Jefferson

Mailing Address: 804 Dr Robert Keith Wallace Dr, Fairfield, IA, 52556

Director's Name: Elyse Soares **Phone Number:** 641-472-9400

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachel Cook **E-Mail:** sharper@maharishischool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-05-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-24-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-16-2020

Comments : conducted by SFM Amy Fratzke, due every 3 years

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: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General		25	25	13	63
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 04-11-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Maharishi Preschool and Childcare is located in a ground floor wing at the elementary and secondary school building on the campus of Maharishi School of Management in Fairfield. The program is owned and operated by Maharishi School of Management. The preschool provides a daily, morning early childhood educational program for two, three and four year old children and a short, daily, afternoon child care program for preschool age and school age children. A new Director has been appointed this past year. (Elyse Soares). Elyse Soares possesses a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and has worked in the preschool for the past 7 years. Rachel Cook has also been added this past year as the new OSS. She is assisting with administrative duties. OSS Cook also works in the school. Lynn Shirai oversees lower elementary education at Maharishi Lower School. Ms. Shirai has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Child Development and a K-6 Teaching License. She has an additional 100 points in Montessori training.

At the time of the visit staff were actively engaged in providing the early childhood educational program to the children. I met with OSS this year on 4/5/23 and all program areas were observed at that time. The Director contacted IDPH, and CCR&R in March this year and requested visits from both. Both the Director and OSS have a good relationship with CCR&R Consultant Malia Love.

Maharishi Preschool Philosophy and Curriculum is as follows according to the Handbook: The curriculum at Maharishi Preschool is unique in the world today. The Science of Creative Intelligence (SCI) program is integrated into all areas of the young, child's daily activities. The goal of integrating SCI into the curriculum is to enliven the children's appreciation of the wonder of life, and to allow the child to enjoy and appreciate the principles of SCI in a very concrete way. Play-oriented activities including nature study, songs, stories, cooking, and art are some of the vehicles through which the SCI principles are enlivened. The curriculum is designed to foster the children's experience of inner happiness, enrich their imagination, and provide varied opportunities for positive social interaction. Teacher and child directed activities along with individual and group activities are structured into the day giving children the opportunity to build self-confidence based on their individual comfort and curiosity.

Goals of the Maharishi Preschool are as follows according to the handbook:
1. To integrate the 16 Principles of the Science of Creative Intelligence into the children's daily schedule, allowing them to further experience and recognize the simple functioning of natural law in themselves and in their daily lives.
2. To enliven the children's experience of bliss through providing a nourishing atmosphere that allows every child to develop the feeling that "mother is at home' in their hearts, every when they are in school.
3. To offer a play-oriented curriculum that unfolds the full potential of every child in four areas of development: physical, perceptual-cognitive, language and personal-social.
4. To bring the child gently into the rhythm of life through predictable daily weekly and seasonal routines.
5. To provide a beautiful and orderly physical environment containing the highest quality of developmentally appropriate materials and equipment
6. To develop a harmonious flow of communication between home and preschool
7. To embrace and include the diverse background of our families and our community into our preschool environment.
8. To continue to meet state licensing requirements as set forth by the Iowa Department of Human Services including health

and safety regulations.
9. To Foster teacher development in the areas of maharishi principles of ideas, and developmentally appropriate practices, as well as personal growth.

Program Observations:

The program has 3 classrooms available. Preschool activities occur in a single, large, open classroom. Toddler programming is offered in 2 other rooms down the hall from the office and preschool classroom The classrooms are clean, bright, attractive, and equipped with a sufficient variety of child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children. The preschool room is equipped with a phone but otherwise are rooms not self-contained. Children use restrooms in the hallway and have no direct emergency exit to the outside from the classroom. The preschool curriculum integrates the Science of Creative Intelligence into each child's daily activities with the goal of enhancing the child's appreciation of the wonder of life and to allow the child to enjoy and appreciate the principles of SCI in a concrete way. SCI principles are incorporated in songs, stories, nature study, and art activities at the preschool. The afternoon child care program is a drop-in program for a short period each afternoon to allow parents to attend other activities on the college campus.

During visits I've observed children engaged in self-selected free choice activities, teacher lead activities, daily routines,, nap outdoor play and finishing up snack. I observed children napping in the 2/3 year old room and after lunch routines the day of the visit. Children interacted appropriately and were redirected by staff when necessary.

Ratio was met and maintained on the visit except for when children from both rooms used the restroom. Children must be supervised. Ratio has been reported as an issue in years past by staff. Room arrangement was neat and organized in each room.

The Director has a separate space for her office. The program added an extra restroom 2 years ago.

Preschool Nutrition Practices Observed:

Parents provide snacks and lunch. Staff must supplement any meals brought to the program that do not meet CACFP guidelines. The classrooms have refrigerators and areas for snack preparation if necessary. Menus should be detailed. A new refrigerator was purchased this past year and is kept in the Director's office.

Dishes are washed by hand. The 3 step method should be utilized.

Preschool Health and Safety:

The preschool administers no prescription or non-prescription medication. The First Aid kit is labeled and kept in the middle room on a high shelf. Another smaller labeled kit is kept outdoors inaccessible to the children. The center has the newest First Aid Kit checklist from 2015.

We discussed and reviewed environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment. A fuel burning appliance inspection is required annually. The center has purchased a plug in carbon monoxide detector (UL approved and non-battery operated) in years past and was replaced in 2020. Radon testing is due every 2 years and is currently overdue. The building was constructed in 1997 therefore lead based paint assessment is not required. The school building is on city water; therefore water analysis is not required.

I reviewed general rules and regulations regarding safety. Nontoxic cleaning products are kept out of the reach of children in a high cabinet. Staff reviewed the cleaner with CCNC Lauderman. All lower cabinets had child locks or contained child safe items. Staff keeps personal belongings in the Director's office, so the children do not have access.

In 2019 we evaluated blueprints and adjusted capacity to 63 for three rooms in the program. Capacity in the past only included two rooms. The program added a restroom so that they will be in compliance with the rule stating there must be a restroom for every 15 children.

During nap I discussed with staff that mats were spaced more than 2 feet apart per recommendation.

The preschool rooms have an ample of amount of natural light from windows and adequate ceiling light. All electrical outlets are new and child safe.

The program has several fish in a large, clean and well-kept fish tank. Several plants are in the rooms. Staff indicates these are all child safe. The program does have a storage room and can interchange toys and other equipment. Each child should have at least 35 square feet of usable floor space in the classroom. I reviewed documentation verifying emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado. These should be conducted monthly.

We discussed sanitation policies and procedures. Waste containers were covered in the classrooms. I observed the restroom. A hand washing poster was present. An ample amount of toileting supplies were present. A changing space is available in this room. The changing space is low to the ground and a plastic pad is placed on a wooden object. The pad can be easily cleaned. Bathroom and diapering areas should: Be sanitary. Provide for individual, single-use or disposable cloths or towels and hand-washing soap. Have appropriate waste receptacles. Have provisions for privacy when appropriate. Have equipment sized or modified to the developmental age of the child. We discussed reviewing the current sanitizer with IDPH.

Staff are aware of compliance with regulations regarding staff and child hand washing. IDPH CCNC Lauderman can conduct a hand washing training with new staff.

Preschool Playground:

The outdoor play area is fenced, naturally shaded, and located adjacent to the preschool. The play area is an Arbor Day Foundation Nature Exploration Classroom. This area features the following activities:

1. A Treasure Cove featuring cupboards storing shells, acorns, pine cones, pods, etc., allowing children to observe, build, and design objects from nature.
2. Sparkling Springs featuring activity play in sand, water, and other natural materials.
3. A Tree House Theater with multi-level stage and seating area, natural wood instruments, and butterfly gardens.
4. A Playful Prairie with a willow tunnel, earth slide, and areas for running, dancing, and jumping.
5. Star Quest featuring an adventure area with log steps, tree stumps, and balance beams for physical challenges and confidence building.
6. A Hummingbird Cottage.
7. A Woodlands with paths through prairie grass, ferns, berry bushes, bird houses, and bird baths.

The area also features several species of trees and plants for shade, beauty, and appreciation of the variety of nature. On the visit to the site, I observed the outdoor play area. The area had many centers such a gardening, a large gardening tool stand with mini digging tools, wooden tables and chairs in tree stumps to sit on, an art easel, wooden blocks for building, a center including pine cones tree bark tree bark, corn and pine needles. The area contains small wheel barrels, stone pathways, a tricycle, and was surfaced with mulch. The area also contains small plastic toys, trees, and wooden benches to sit on. A wagon is also available for use, as well as rubber balls. There is an area of several logs. There is also a small slide area. The gate around the area facing the street is very sturdy and has plastic coating on the chain. Another part of the play area contains a stone area covered by a wooden roof the roof contains a flower bed. Other parts of the play area include birdhouses of the children have pain it on, a bird bath, and several other riding toys that appear to be in good repair there is a large wooden shelter area with several benches for the children to sit under. A large cement patch where the children ride toys is present. The area is fenced with a wooden fence and a gate separates the front entrance of the playground from the parking lot area. The area contains a small table and another art easel. It also has several bushes and trees. All trees and bushes were previously classified as non- poisonous by the Arbor Day Foundation.

An annual cleanup day will be held in April in which parents and community members assist with planting, weeding and spring cleanup.

If the outdoor play area is not available an area in the hallway can be used for free time. The staff also take the children for walks in the winter. Each child should have at least 75 square feet of usable space when in gross motor activity or outdoors.

Playground inspection forms were up to date. This is an improvement from year's past. The Director/OSS utilizes the Child Care Weather Watch to determine if outdoor play is appropriate.

A first aid kit is kept outdoors at all times in a place inaccessible to children. CCNC Lauderman performed an Injury Prevention Checklist in the spring. She reports many of the issues she noted have been corrected. Snow and ice cover was present the day of the visit so it was difficult to measure surfacing or detect other potential hazards.

Preschool Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The preschool does not own a vehicle and provides no transportation. The preschool is considering alternate transportation arrangements for field trips such as public transit. The center takes walking field trips around campus.

Preschool Administrative Records:

The program adopts a proactive approach to child misbehavior by designing the classroom environment to provide sufficient materials and activities to encourage appropriate stimulation and mind engagement. Teachers also employ redirection and encouragement of appropriate behavior.

The preschool Director, OSS and I reviewed compliance with required written policies contained in a parent handbook.

Staff and child files are reviewed annually during visits. The center has 7 employees.

The Center Director and OSS did not have access to child files. This has been discussed in years past. The Director must have access to child records to ensure all requirements are met. Child immunizations and physicals are reviewed annually. Child physicals must be updated annually. All child files should contain updated medical and dental information as well pick up and emergency contact and pick up authorization information. The program may request a child record review from CCNC Lauderman or Jefferson County Public Health.

Fingerprints for employees are due every 4 years. Iowa Criminal Checks are required prior to start date and every 2 years. We reviewed Mandatory Reporter training, Universal Precautions (due annually), current certification in CPR/First Aid (due every two years). All employees have signed statements of non-conviction in their files.

Required notices and postings were observed. An unlimited access policy is posted by the main door. I observed a mandatory reporter posting, licensing consultant information, a certificate of license, and no smoking signs were posted by entrances. 911, Poison Control and other emergency numbers should be posted by the phones. Emergency evacuation procedures are posted by each door. An Emergency Preparedness Plan was present. Staff should be trained on the plan and sign and date acknowledgement of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool provides partial scholarships based on financial need.
The preschool provides vision screenings for the children in cooperation with the local Lions Club.
The preschool provides hearing screenings for the children in cooperation with the local AEA.
The preschool has achieved 2 Star QRS status..
The center should be commended for recycling and encouraging sustainable living practices.
The center has conducted training with parents on Positive Parenting.
CCNC Lauderman conducted an Outdoor Play Injury Prevention Checklist in 2019. Most items on the list have been addressed.
The Director quickly addressed violations after the DHS visit. She has been open to working with resources.

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

1. 109.6(5)c: Undergo record check process if: It is included in meeting the required child/staff ratio. Has direct responsibility for a child or children. Has access to child or children when no other staff is present. All staff working in ratio must have SING checks and fingerprint results present. One staff needs fingerprints. The OSS indicated she can run the prints on 4/12/2023 and send them off.

2. 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, Chiropractor 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: 9

3. 109.10(5): Infectious disease control: Centers shall establish policies and procedures related to infection disease control and use of universal precautions with handling of bodily fluid. Soiled diapers shall be stored in containers separate from other waste. This policy should be added to the handbook. All required policies should be reviewed and missing policies should be added to the handbook.

4. 109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. The Director and I searched for the documentation in the furnace room. She agreed to ask the school if they had an inspection conducted within the past year. The last one conducted was two years ago. The OSS agreed to secure an inspection.

5. 109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

The OSS agreed to ensure menus were more specific in the future.

A technical referral was made to CCR&R after the visit. On 4/10/23 Consultant Love emailed the center offering assistance

with correcting the above violations. I spoke with OSS on 4/11/23 and she assured me the issues would be quickly resolved.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center agrees to correct listed deficiencies. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

DHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant Mandi Lauderman. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Lauderman can conduct an Injury Prevention Checklist on the facility. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants CCNC Lauderman visited the center and made recommendations 3/14/22. She is available to assist with child and staff files or any other health and safety questions.

DHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant Malia Love. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org Consultant Love provided consultation services before and after the DHS visit.

The center can meet with with Mandi Lauderman, Jefferson County IDPH, Child Care Nurse Consultant and CCR&R Consultant Malia Love on a regular basis for training assistance and consultation services.

This center has had high turnover with Directors the past several years.

The school has a website: http://www.maharishischooliowa.org/

*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.