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

Name of Center: Children's Garden **Enrollment:** 83 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26358

Street: 3223 University Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50311 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3223 University Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50311

Director's Name: Misty Hiatt **Phone Number:** 515-441-9051

On-Site Supervisor(s): Latoya Spencer, Lashay Washington, Lisa Fredrickson **E-Mail:** director@childrens-garden.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-16-2024

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:** 03-05-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-13-2023

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	24	12	27	37	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-16-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/16/24. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Children's Garden is located on the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines. The center moved to this location from Wesley Acres on 11/24/14. Children's Garden serves children typically ages six weeks old to 12 years old. The center uses a combination of the Creative Learning Curriculum and their own learning curriculum with children. There are eight classrooms total.

The center is overseen by a Board. The director as of 8/2021 is Misty Hiatt. Misty has an AA degree. Misty also has many years of experience working in child care, including as a director of other child care centers in the past. Latoyia Spencer, Lashay Washington, and Lisa Fredrickson are the on-site supervisors. All three individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, being held, playing upstairs in the gym, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them in classrooms. Staff were engaged with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment remains steady.

The center has an upstairs gym they can use when weather does not permit outdoor play.

The center participates in a program called Fit and Fun.

The center participates in the food program (CACFP).

There is a secure entrance into the center. Security cameras are in classrooms.

Staff use walkie talkies to communicate with one another when in different areas of the center.

All children were the same style/color of shirt when they go on field trips off site.

The center uses their nurse consultant and CCR&R on a regular basis.

The center has their own website where additional information about the center can be obtained.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The center has a full-time cook.

The center uses the Pro-Care electronic application for daily sheets.

The center is currently working on IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The playground surfacing has been updated and renovated over the past year.

The director has a lot of experience working in child care. The director stated she also has a support system in place with other area directors as well as the center Board.

The director stated she feels her staff work well with each other and communicate well with each other.

The director believes they have good relationships with the families they serve. An emphasis is placed on communication with parents.

Staff photos are posted and there is also a staff recognition board for good work.

There are janitorial staff who do extra cleaning in the center.

The center received 100% on their last immunization audit from 12/2023.

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

237A.7: Information regarding a child in a child care center or their relative is confidential. If this information is released by visual, verbal or written means, written consent from the parent or guardian is in the file or a court order allowing the release of the information.
There was one child who had allergy information posted. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED AS OF 4/17/24 PER AN EMAIL THE DIRECTOR FORWARDED TO THIS CONSULTANT WITH THE PARENT GIVING PERMISSION VIA EMAIL.

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
One new staff person had not yet been fingerprinted. This is scheduled for this week.

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: 1 new staff (same as above) did not have a current physical on file.

109.9(2)f: All files contain parent authorization for attendance at center-sponsored field trips and non-center activities. If an inclusive authorization form for activities is used, a copy is kept on file at the center.
Number not in compliance with center-sponsored trips: 2 children needed updates for field trips, photos, and transportation.
Number not in compliance with non-center activities:: 0

109.15(1): Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
In one of the two year old classrooms, the PM snack time was not listed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon tested was completed 3/18/21 - 3/21/21. All classroom came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual boiler inspection expires in 8/2024.

The center owns two vans that they use for transportation for field trips and for picking children up after school. Regular maintenance is performed on the vans.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I-Power profiles and training is being uploaded.

Cots are sanitized weekly per some staff, but the handles of the cots should be sanitized daily.

School-age children should have separate monthly fire and tornado drill forms.

*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.