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): Jackie Heron and Lisa Schweitzer **E-Mail:** director@childrens-garden.org

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

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-21-2022

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: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2022 to 05-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-05-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 4/4/23.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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

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. As of 2/2022 Jackie Heron is one on-site supervisor. Jackie has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care. As of 10/22, Lisa Schweitzer, is the other on-site supervisor. Lisa has her CDA as well as past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities that included being fed (infants), eating lunch, washing hands prior to eating, napping in cribs, engaged in large group story activity facilitated by staff, engaged in free choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, and playing on the playground.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

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 have also been added to classrooms within the past year.

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.

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 participates in QRS and is a level 3. They are currently working on IQ4K.

The center has again had several renovations over the past year which include new surfacing on one playground, interior painting, and security cameras being installed.

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.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child was past due for an annual update.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: All children, regardless of age, need to have a doctor and a dentist listed. The information should include the names, addresses, and phone numbers.

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.
There was one medication not labeled observed in the infant room.

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 procedures were not posted in the upstairs gym. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
1. On the playground, there were several issues observed. THE PLAYGROUND IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.
a. There was one climber on grass. Grass is not considered a sufficient surface and will need to be moved to the other adjacent playground.
b. One climber did not have the sufficient minimum six foot fall zone around ladders and slides. This climber will need to be moved some.
c. One piece of equipment was cracked in one area as discussed at the visit.
2. One bottle was labeled "bleach water" but it contained soapy water. Bottles should be labeled accordingly.

109.11(5): Telephone: Working non-pay phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting. List of emergency numbers for children kept near

phone.
All phones observed did not have emergency phone numbers listed. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Daily schedules were missing for the two year old classroom and school-age classroom. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
When being stored, children's bedding was touching other children's bedding.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
ONE SHEET DID NOT SEEM TO FIT THE MATTRESS IN THE INFANT ROOM FOR ONE CRIB.

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 radon levels came back below 4.0, retesting is now not needed until 3/2026 (every five years). If radon levels come back 4.0 or higher in 3/2026, then retesting is needed and radon testing will go back to two years.

The annual boiler inspection expires in 10/2023.

The center owns two vans that they use for transportation for field trips and for picking children up after school.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff need to have an I-Power profile.

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

It is recommended that staff files be organized directly per the staff tracking sheet. This was again emailed to the director after the visit concluded.

It is recommended that a binder be used for all licensing inspections and also tabbed.

A referral to CCR&R was made on 4/5/23. A Corrective Action Plan in regards to the below standards identified in the report was discussed and should be sent to this consultant within 10 days of receiving this report.

*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.