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

Name of Center: Granger Children's Center **Enrollment:** 185 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25849

Street: 1813 Walnut St **City:** Granger Iowa **Zip** 50109 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: PO Box 534, Granger, IA, 50109

Director's Name: Jackie Smyth **Phone Number:** 515-999-9490

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jocie Guzzi-Wunschel and Paula Alvarado **E-Mail:** grangerchildren@aol.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-16-2024

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:** 04-18-2024

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

Date Inspected: 12-02-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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 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	45	15	81	60	201
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-17-2024

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 5/16/24. The owner/director was present throughout the visit. The on-site supervisors were present for portions of this 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.

Granger Children's Center is owned and directed by Jackie Smyth. Jackie opened the center in 1999. The center has been in its current location since 2001. In 2014, a large addition was constructed/added to the exiting center. In 2022, a large, indoor gym area was added.

As stated above, Jackie Smyth is the owner/director. Jocie Guzzi-Wunschel and Paula Alvaradoare the on-site supervisors. Both individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisor. The center serves children ages six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age utilizing the Creative Learning Curriculum. There are a total of 13 classrooms.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, having tummy time, being held while bottle fed, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, playing on the playground, washing their hands, eating lunch, and then getting ready for afternoon naps. Staff were engaged with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Many of the staff have been with the center for several years. There is low turnover. Staff reportedly work well together.

Several staff members are bi-lingual. In some classrooms, children are taught Spanish.

All entrance/exit doors sound/buzz when opened.

Quarterly staff meetings are held. Individual classroom meetings are held more often, but are more informal in nature.

There are secure entrances into classroom areas.

Over the past year, several interior areas have had a fresh coat of paint.

A camera system is in place throughout hallways.

The center received 100% on their last three immunization audits.

Management felt that they have a good team working for them and that staff also have good relationships with the parents

and children they serve.

The center smelled and looked clean.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

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

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 need to be posted in the gym.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. 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.
The schedules in a couple of classrooms need to be adjusted for meal times.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 5/8/23 - 5/11/23. All classrooms 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 furnace inspection was last completed 4/24/24.

I - Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. Brightwheel and Playground were also discussed. It appears all staff have I-Power profiles. Some training needs to still be up-loaded.

For transportation/field trips, the center owns three vans they use. The vans are serviced regularly.

When walking children across the street to school, staff should still bring along children's emergency contact information.

It is recommended no Boppy pillows be used in the infant classrooms.

A freezer thermometer is needed in one of the infant classrooms.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.