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

Name of Center: ACPC-Main Center **Enrollment:** 98 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16803

Street: 920 Carroll Ave **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 920 Carroll Ave, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Melissa Sanow **Phone Number:** 515-233-2901

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brittney Dencklau **E-Mail:** director@acpc-childcare.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-17-2024

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:** 02-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 06-07-2022

Comments : Fire 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: 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	12	28	110	40	190
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 04-21-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 4-17-24. The director was present for the majority of the visit; and prior to her arrival another program manger was present. The assistant director was also present at times.

The ACPC Child Care Program first started in 1968 and had always been in a church. In 2013 ACPC bought an empty neighborhood school building and after much updating, the first day for children to attend was 12-09-13. They now serve children ages 12 months up to preschool age, and will have school age children at times during the summer for overflow from the school sites. Once children become school age they may attend one of the school site programs also operated by this organization.

The hours of operation are 7:00 am-6:00 pm.

Melissa (Missy) Sanow is the director of this program, starting in October of 2022. Missy has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and twenty prior years of experience in childcare settings, including prior director experience. Brittney Dencklau became the on-site supervisor in March of 2023. Brittney has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and 14 prior years of experience at ACPC as a lead teacher. Both meet the points required for their positions.

Room observations/Activities: There are eight classrooms located in two pods that are located at opposite ends of the building. They also have the standard full size school kitchen, plus an additional smaller kitchen that has space for child size tables so the children can do non-cooking food activities. The center is adding the conference room space, which has a capacity for 19 children, and the lunchroom space, which has a capacity for 21 children, for school age children. School age children will use these spaces in the summer or when school is not in session to assist with overflow at the school sites. This increases the capacity to 190. There is also an indoor gymnasium area that is used when the children cannot go outdoors to play.

The center uses Teaching Strategies Gold with the Creative Curriculum, as well as an emotional and social component to the curriculum. The center uses the Bright Wheel application to communicate with parents. The rooms were in ratio. There was a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The rooms are clean and organized; with the exception of some debris under the changing tables which was discussed. The center utilizes oxivir and soapy water to clean/sanitize. There was additional discussion for moving string lights away from the water source (sink) and out of reach for the children (the staff corrected this immediately). The staff were observed to be nurturing and responsive. There was good structure in the rooms while staff lead large group activities.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with a chef. The program is enrolled in and participates with CACFP meal guild Lines. Menus reflect adherence to CACFP. The kitchen staff were busy with meal preparation. The storage area was clean and to standard. Discussion did take place regarding a large kitchen knife (blade approximately 8 inches) was left on a counter surface that opens to a hall area with the screen opening up, without obstacle to access the knife. The director pick this up and immediately moved this to safety. While this area is not one that is heavily frequented by children, is is accessible. The director made sure to mention the concern to the chef who surveyed the area to ensure no other concerns

were present at this point. Otherwise the kitchen was very clean.

Health/safety: Medication is stored securely in back backs with first aid kits in each room. Handwashing signs were posted in the restrooms and by sinks as required. Emergency exit diagrams were posted in all rooms. Fire/Tornado drills were documented completed monthly as required. HVAC is inspected in the summer season. There are several carbon monoxide detectors throughout the center.

Playground: The center has an expansive playground that is enclosed by chain link fencing and separated by ages. There is natural shading and shade structures. There are play structures and toys available for children's access. The playground has cement, grass and wood chips as safety surfacing. Part of the playground is utilized for community access with set hours. Staff monitor on-going for needed maintenance. This playground is in good condition.

Transportation/Field trips NA

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, and non-smoking signs are posted. Eight staff files and Eight child files were reviewed--all containing the required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has strong ties with the community and receives community support. The center has a good reputation and there is a waiting list for children to enroll.

The staff are invested in the center and committed to providing quality care. The quality of teachers is high and they take ownership and pride in their classrooms.

The center has strong partnerships in the community, including United Way, the University, Raising Readers program, the school district and AEA.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center is able to employ students from the local University and this brings a nice mix of staff with longevity and staff in the academic culture.

The center communicates well with families and has strong relationships with their families.

The rooms have a good arrangement of centers and allow for easy movement of the children.

The staff are trained in PBIS.

The center participates in the TEACH program.

The center received STEM grants.

The center has strong support from their board, the board wants what is best for the center and for the teachers and families. The board supports the teachers.

The center tries to have more staff in a classroom than what is required by regulations for ratio, which was observed in this licensing visit.

The center is having the library remolded and the younger infant classroom is being remolded.

The center has a food pantry for families that was well stocked with necessities.

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

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. 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.

Changing tables for younger children did have debris and needed additional cleaning; there was a set of string lights with part of the string touching or very close to a working water source (sink) which staff did move during the visit; there was a large kitchen knife left unattended which the director moved to a safe area immediately.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The center completed radon testing in April of 2022 and all rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines. The center is on the food program.

This center's staff were consistently observed to be engaged with the children and responding in a nurturing manner. The classrooms were arranged nicely and reflective of the teacher's creativity and participation in programming.

*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.