

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

Name of Center: Dodger Academy **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 47782

Street: 945 S 18th ST **City:** Fort Dodge **Iowa Zip:** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 945 S 18th ST, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Erin Brookshire **Phone Number:** 515-574-5863

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** acanto@fdschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-29-2019, 11-22-2019

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-22-2020

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				150	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 10-01-2018 to 10-01-2020
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 11-27-2019

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Dodger Academy on 10-29-19 and again on 11-22-19 where I met with center director Erin Brookshire who began with this program for the 2019 school year. The program is located in the Butler Elementary school in Fort Dodge. The program provides after school programming for school age children only. There are approximately 100 children enrolled in the program served by a variety of teachers and volunteers. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The program makes use of the cafeteria, library, and gymnasium of the school with large open floor plans and designs typical of their normal intended use. All were observed to be clean and in good repair with no issues related to maintenance. Because of the multiple use nature of the facility none of the areas are specifically set up and arranged for use by the after school program but a variety of games, crafts, and other materials are brought out for the children to play with. A storage area that has a rolling door just off the cafeteria space is used to store items for the program. Restrooms are located just off the cafeteria space, and off main hallways of the school. All of the spaces are interior areas without windows. Each as multiple exits from the area.

Good interactions were observed with the children spitting into three groups with one remaining in the cafeteria, one going to the library, and one to the gym. The center has arranged to have the staff that are under the age of 18 paired with a staff member that is over the age of 18 to ensure that ratios and supervision requirements are met. All of the staff were observed to be engaged with the children. A daily schedule and curriculum were posted and the program has made a point to focus on a curriculum that provides support for completing homework, and activity groups. Good behavior management practices were observed with the teachers redirecting the children, helping them identify positive behavior choices, and Erin makes use of a chime board as a means to focus attention when engaging the group as a whole.

Overall health and hygiene practices were observed to be good. The center does maintain a limited supply first aid kit which is accessible in the cafeteria area but also has access to the school nurse/office which has additional first aid materials present. Children were observed to wash their hands after restroom use, however several were observed to not wash their hands prior to snack service. The program does not routinely administer medications but does have policies and procedures in place should it become necessary in the future.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but a snack is provided. The program has the school cafeteria staff prepare a snack menu for them. Snacks typically consist of single serving items and milk or juice.

The program does have the option to make use of the school playground. The playground was observed to have a variety of climbing structures and swings which were observed to be in good repair. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath the climbing structures and a loose fill material beneath the swings which will need to be assessed for proper depth of material in the spring. The fencing surrounding the playground is missing several retaining clips allowing the fence to move away from the poles and creating an entrapment risk. There are areas of transition between paved areas and green areas where the soil has compacted or been displaced which creates a tripping hazard and should either be leveled or have a high visibility paint applied to denote the transition change.

In reviewing administrative records the center all required notices and information was posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. The program now has access to Infinite Campus to track information regarding the children's records. All required documentation was present. In reviewing staff files Erin noted that these are maintained at the school district administrative office and a second visit was to that location to review records which were found to contain all required documentation. During that visit Erin was making copies of the required information and intended to maintain records on-site. All required inspection logs and certificates were current and available with the exception of the fire and tornado drill logs which were not maintained for January through May of 2019. As a reminder these must be conducted and logged monthly for each month the program is in operation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has continued to grow and develop over the past year with an increase in enrollment and daily attendance. The capacity of the program had previously been limited by request to reflect the anticipated attendance and was increased this year to reflect the growth.

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

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed: Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity. After using the restroom or being diapered. After handling animals.

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.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written plan of correction that includes actions to correct and maintain compliance for those items cited as not meeting licensing standards which includes dates of expected compliance.

NOTE: Given that the center has obtained but not submitted fingerprint checks for any staff and the cost of submitting all checks can be high Ashley was instructed to submit those requests for all new employees. For employees who are school teachers that have been previously checked and need to be renewed and staff that have been with the program for more than a year submission of those requests could be made in the following month.

NOTE: A referral to Child Care Resource and Referral has been made to assist the program with establishing a system to obtain and maintain records for staff and child files, and other administrative records.

*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.