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

Name of Center: Wee Wildcat Day Care **Enrollment:** 44 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 7240

Street: 300 S Berwick St **City:** Schaller Iowa **Zip** 51053 **County:** Sac

Mailing Address: PO Box 249, Schaller, IA, 51053

Director's Name: Jackie Wandrey **Phone Number:** 712-275-4266

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** jwandrey@rvraptors.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-26-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 03-04-2020

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

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	20		12	33	65
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-03-2024

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 Wee Wildcat daycare program on 09-26-24 where I met with center director Jackie Wandrey. Jackie is well qualified for the position with extensive experience and training in early childhood care having been with the center since it opened in 2008. This program is located in the Schaller Crestland elementary school. While having a strong collaborative relationship with the school the program is operated independently of the school and overseen by a separate board of directors. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are currently 44 children enrolled in the program served by 9 staff. All areas of the center subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the program remains the same as in the prior year. The program makes use of 2 classrooms with one for infants, and one for preschool and school age children. Both rooms use low storage benches and other furnishings to divide the rooms. Each classroom was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to design or maintenance. Each room has sinks in the room that allow for hand washing. Both rooms have changing stations present in the room, and the school age room also has a bathroom directly available off the programming space. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. The infant and school age rooms have a shared intervening door between them, and there is a door providing direct emergency egress to the outdoors in the school age room. All emergency exits opened easily and freely, and were clear of obstruction.

As noted both rooms make use of furnishings to divide the classrooms. In the infant room this is used to create an active play area for mobile infants, and an area for non-mobile infants as well as a feeding area. In the school age room this creates space that allows the program to separate younger children from older children. Both rooms have basic options such as large/small manipulatives, books, and art/crafts. The preschool/school age room also includes options such as math/science, dramatic play, sand/water play, board games, media, and group learning. The room division does seek to group these activity centers together and the age groups rotate which side they are playing on throughout the day based on the planned schedule and curriculum. When moving between the area the staff did use access points of moving a furnishing unit providing clear and easy access. Each room was observed to have a good variety of toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum was posted in the school age room and this was followed throughout the day. The staff were all actively engaged with the children either attending to their needs, playing with them, or presenting the planned curriculum throughout the time of the visit. Ratio was maintained in the center and each area as required by age. One supervision issue that was noted was in the infant room when a child on the non-mobile side was left doing tummy time with no staff in the immediate area. While the child was of an age that the child could roll on their own it was reviewed that when children are on the floor doing tummy time staff need to be in the immediate area, and if needing to get up should at a minimum roll the child onto their back, or move them to a structure that can provide support to hold the child upright. It was also noted that the center did have a "Boppy Pillow" and it was discussed that staff do need to ensure that item is not used to prop children up as it is not intended to be used for that purpose but rather as an aid to nursing mothers.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. I was able to observe a diaper change during

the visit and the staff did follow the posted procedures for changing the child, and cleaning the station. Purses, chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. The center has a first aid kit stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs, and also has access to the school nurse for more extensive health issues if needed. The center did not have any children identified as taking any medications, and did have allergy response plans for those that had a diagnosed allergy. Good safe sleep practices were observed for children under 1 year of age.

The center makes use of the school cafeteria for meal preparation but some food items are stored in the classrooms and good food storage practices were observed. The children do eat in the cafeteria at separate tables from the regular school children, and the staff sit and eat with the children during meals to provide supervision. I was able to observe the morning snack service and good food handling practices were observed with the teachers wearing food service gloves. A copy of the planned menu is posted and the meal served on the day of my visit did include healthy food options. The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the tables.

There are three playground spaces at the school that the center can make use of that include one with large school age climbing structures, a preschool space with a smaller climbing structure and crawling tunnel, and a grassy natural play area. The program generally does not make use of the larger playground except on occasions during the summer if they have sufficient numbers of school age children to take them off as a separate group. The main areas with the natural playground, and the preschool playground are both fenced and the fencing was observed to be in good repair. The climbing structure of the preschool area was observed to be in good repair. A unitary fall surfacing covers the entire play surface in the preschool playground. Large mature trees provide shade.

A review of administrative records found all required notices to be present and posted in an area readily visible to parents and visitors. The center does maintain a self-audit which was found to be accurate for both child and staff files when compared to randomly selected files. The review and self-audit identified that staff and child files contained all required information. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center will be undertaking work to update aspects of the center such as new carpeting that will be installed.

This center has been very stable with regard to staffing and child enrollment with many having been with the center for several years. This stability has resulted in the staff and children developing strong relationships, and continuity of operations.

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

None Cited

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying either corrections or a plan of action to correct those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.