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

Name of Center: Prairie Flower Children's Center **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52291

Street: 1517 Northwestern AVE **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 1517 Northwestern AVE, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Monica Marcomb **Phone Number:** 515-292-4312

On-Site Supervisor(s): Keeley Oldham **E-Mail:** director@prairieflowercc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-29-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-11-2024

Comments : Fire inspection due at least every three years/Ames Fire Dept

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			32		32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 02-08-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 1/29/25; and the director was present for the entire visit.

Prairie Flower children's center was given permission to open 10-6-23. This is a pre-school cooperative program where parents are integrated into the learning program and are expected to provide 10 hours/semester of involvement/volunteering with the program. Prairie Flower operates from Bethesda Lutheran Church. Prairie Flower is a nature-based program and curriculum runs on what the program refers to as "rhythms"--daily themes. Families can chose between half and full-days. The program has a board of directors. Monica Marcomb is the center director.

Center Hours are 8:00 AM until 5:30 PM daily.

Room Observations/activities: The classroom is nicely arranged and has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. Staff are in ratio. This program has rhythms of the day/week, which are themes. Curriculum is pulled from Iowa Early Learning Standards and lesson plans are crafted by the director. Bright Wheel is the application used to communicate with parents. Restrooms are just adjacent to the classroom and were clean and stocked with necessary toiletries. Staff were observed to maintain structure in the classroom while responding to the children in nurturing manner--the children were preparing to going on a walk during this visit.

Nutrition Practices: Menus are crafted by the director and rotate every 2 weeks. The center is working on application for the food program and menus appear in-line with CACFP guidelines. Menus were posted. For the full day program--children and staff cooperatively prepare their meals/snacks. Parents provide snacks. There is a cooking hot plate in the classroom and when in use this area is sectioned off and not accessible to the children. Meals are served family style in the classroom. There is an on-site kitchen that the program has access.

Health and safety: medication would be stored securely and only accessible to staff; Handwashing poster/fliers were posted. A first aid kit is available and is being updated/restocked. Emergency Exit plans were posted in rooms as required. Radon testing is pending; the director will send the results when completed. The church manages the HVAC inspection/maintenance.

Playground: There is a large green space located on the church property that will be utilized as the play area; the program also incorporates trails, hiking etc as large motor play. The program in the process of adding play structures; while under construction, the children are not able to access this area.

Transportation: The parents of the children in the program coordinate transportation; the program uses extra staff or volunteers when the children are on a walking trip or bus trip.

Administrative Review: Fliers for mandatory reporting; handbook; consultant contact and license were posted. Six staff files were reviewed; one needed a SING check placed in the file as the director indicated it had been completed; there were staff needing to provide physicals; and staff needing to complete or provide certificates for basic trainings. Child files were

reviewed and one needed an annual updated with several needing to updated physical forms.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center provides an opportunity for parent integration into the program at times to enhance activities.

This program and director continue to access community resources including CCR&R to assist in the program requirements.

The children were observed to be content, staff maintaining good structure in the room and on the hike.

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

109.10(1)a
Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

109.7(1) All staff(within first 3 months of employment)
• Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.
• At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.
• Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.
• Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.
• Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
109.9(1)b All files contain:
1. A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check.
2. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.
3. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.
4. Copies of national criminal history check results.
5. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
109.9(1)d All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion took place and the director indicated work is taking place to keep files and documentation up to date. The center director is actively interested in available grant and other funding sources to assist the program.

The Director will send the consultant the radon testing results when received.

The director and staff are invested in the program and work well together; staff were observed to be actively engaged in leading group activities with the children.

*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.