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

Name of Center: Cub Cadet Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 55 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52263

Street: 1441 Gull AVE **City:** Latimer Iowa **Zip** 50452 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: 1441 Gull AVE, Latimer, IA, 50452

Director's Name: Abby Meyer **Phone Number:** 641-579-6085

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** lettowt@cal.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 09-06-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-29-2023

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	13	18	51	80	162
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-20-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was made to the Cub Cadet Childhood Center on 09-06-23 where I met with the center director and school principal, Abby Meyer. Abby is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and on-going training. Katie Walker is the site supervisor for the infant/toddler building and is also well qualified for the position based on her experience, and on-going training. This program underwent some changes during this past year with having the school assume ownership and operation of the daycare and expand both the available facilities and programming to include a formal preschool program. The formal preschool program offers 2 classes with one for 3 year children which is operated under the DHHS license, and a 4 year old preschool which is operated under the Statewide Voluntary Grant program overseen by the Department of Education. The program also provides full range care for infants through school age children. There are currently 55 children enrolled in the program served by 10 staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The program makes use of a modular home building that has been converted for use as a daycare to house the infants and 2 year old children. Preschool and school age children make use of several classrooms in the school building. Both buildings are located on the same property in a campus setting. The modular building has 3 classrooms, a small kitchen area, and several bathrooms. Two of the classrooms are larger with one being used for infants, and the other for the 2 year olds. The third classroom is smaller and can be used as a space either for providing separation of the infants by developmental age, or additional space for the 2 year old children. Each room has direct secondary egress from the room and all exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each room has windows that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each classroom has restrooms directly accessible from the room, and changing stations and hand washing sinks in the classrooms. The center was observed to be clean and while there were some minor maintenance issues none rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern.

The school building makes use of 6 classrooms with 2 being for formal preschool programming, 1 being used as indoor large motor room, and the others being used for general programming for the preschool and school age children. The formal preschool classrooms have an intervening door that provides direct secondary egress. The other classrooms make use of designated windows for secondary emergency egress. Again all exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. The two formal preschool classrooms have bathroom facilities located directly accessible from the classrooms, and the other classrooms make use of restroom facilities off the main access corridor. A changing station is located in one of the restrooms off the main corridor for those children who may not be fully toilet trained. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. All programming rooms make use of space in the school building for emergency storm shelter.

Each classroom makes use of furniture, shelving, and play structures to define activity centers. The design of the classrooms, and arrangement of activity centers is such that there are no blind areas. The available activity center increase in terms of options and available materials as the ages of the children progress with all classrooms having large/small manipulatives, books, and art/crafts. Older age classrooms also include options of dramatic play, math/science, group learning, sand/water play, music/movement, and puzzles/table games. The toys and materials present in each activity center were appropriate to the ages of the children present, and were observed to be in good repair. Each classroom had a copy of

the daily schedule and planned curriculum posted. Good interactions were observed in each classrooms. The teachers working with the formal preschool children were implementing the planned curriculum. The children in the infant/toddler building were just laying down for nap during the time of the visit and the staff were observed to be rubbing their backs to soothe and help relax the children. All staff were observed to use positive behavior management techniques such as recognizing and praising positive behavior, using reminders of expected behavior, redirecting negative behavior, and helping the children with problem solving and identifying positive resolution options.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change both at the daycare, and the school setting. In the daycare setting the staff did follow proper procedures as identified in the required posting. In the school setting it is noted that the child involved would have been enrolled in a class not included in the licensed programming however there were some issues that were discussed with Abby including the need to ensure that the required procedures posting is placed by the changing station which would provide a guide not only to those who are subject to licensing review but any others who may assist a child that had a toileting accident. Chemical cleaners, staff purses, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. Good cleaning practices were generally observed with staff directing children away from the areas when using chemical cleaners however there an issue when cleaning up following lunch service where a child in the 3 year old preschool program went over to the table and licked a puddle of the cleaning agent that had been sprayed on the table when the teacher had turned away. This was pointed out to Abby and options to reduce the risk of this occurring in the future such as waiting until the children were napping to clean, serving lunch in a different classroom than where after lunch play activities were held, or improved supervision were discussed. In addition this is the same area where cots were being placed for nap time while children were still playing and some of the cots placed in the more central open areas had children walking on them or using them a play centers and again options that could help to reduce this in the future were discussed. First aid kits were present in both centers and while needing some items replenished the center does have additional supplies and access to the school nurse and would be able to address most common first aid needs. Good handwashing practices were observed during the time of the visit. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room of the center.

Meals are prepared by the school cafeteria and transported to the classrooms on covered carts. Meals are pre-portioned and good food service practices were observed with staff using food service gloves and measured scoops. Although the teachers have the option to eat with the children they choose not to but did provide supervision at the tables.

The program makes use of a toddler playground, and the school playground. The toddler playground has a small climbing structure that is nearing the end of it's useful life but was still in good repair. In addition to the climbing structure there are riding toys, dramatic play centers, balls, and other equipment. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing. The space is fully enclosed by fencing which had some slats that were broken at the top but which did not have any sharp edges, or created an entrapment risk. The school playground has several climbing structures, a paved area, and an open grassy area. One climbing structure is an older unit that has served it's useful life and has areas that need repairs such as a tic-tac-toe tumbler where several of the tumblers are damaged or missing creating an entrapment risk and the remaining tumblers and support bars should be removed. Other areas of the structure also needed maintenance but were structurally sound. Abby did identify that there are plans to remove the structure and a recommendation to install a covered shelter area was suggested. Wood chips are used for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present. Shade is available around the edges of the playground from several mature trees.

All required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and the Permission To Open letter were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. The center uses the Procare Data Management and Communications application to maintain child records and infant daily sheets, as well as hard copy files in the school office. The Procare application does have the ability to process a file review report and when compared to files that were randomly selected for review was found to be accurate. All files contained all required information. Staff files were also reviewed and a random selection compared to the self-audit completed by the center again found that the self-audit was accurate with 1 file needing a current physical. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center has updated the parent handbook to incorporate the change in ownership and expansion of the school based programs. The handbook was reviewed and found to have all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has been in operation for many years and transferred ownership to the school allowing the program to expand into additional rooms to serve more children, offer a formal preschool program, and provide more support for school age children who need care during the summer and after school.

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

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.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- The required changing procedures posting was not present by all changing stations.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain 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.