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

Name of Center: Panther Zone **Enrollment:** 5 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52720

Street: 1001 N Main St **City:** Mount Pleasant Iowa **Zip** 52641 **County:** Henry

Mailing Address: 304 W Washington St, Mount Pleasant, IA, 52641

Director's Name: Cairece Allen **Phone Number:** 319-348-1784

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kaela Welcher **E-Mail:** mpchildcare9@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-07-2025

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:** 12-20-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-25-2025

Comments : due every three years, performed by SFM

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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 Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				50	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 03-14-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Panther Zone is located in a newer 1 story, brick building in an elementary school in residential Mt. Pleasant. It is new (2025). The program is owned and operated by a board of directors. It is new in 2025. The Panther Zone program occupies a small gymnasium in the building. The director is Cairece Allen. Director Allen holds a BA in Criminal Justice and over 70 hours of child care related professional development training. She has 9 years of experience in child care. Kaela Welcher was appointed on site supervisor. Since the visit she has resigned. The center will be appointing a new OSS. This facility offers after school care to school age children five days per week. It is governed by a Board of Directors. The Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance supports this center and provides guidance.

On 2/7/25, I made an unannounced licensing visit to Panther Zone and met with the Director. Since the initial visit the OSS is no longer employed at the program. The program is searching for a new OSS. An OSS or Director must be present during the program hours. The program will be closed until an OSS or Director can be present daily.

Program Nutrition Practices Observed:

Snacks are served daily. Administration agreed to post menus which were not present on the visit. The menu should indicate minimum nutritional standards are met.

Tables are cleaned with soapy water and an approved cleaner prior to snack.

Health and Safety:

Prescription and non-prescription medication was reviewed in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. The program currently has no medications. Any emergency medications will be with the child since this is a school aged program.

We reviewed compliance with regulations regarding storage and maintenance of a first aid kit. A labeled First Aid kit was kept out of the reach of children. The current checklist was present with most items accounted for. The kit is not locked in case of an emergency. No children in the program have been diagnosed with an allergy.

A designated quiet rest area is across the gym where a child can rest until a parent arrives

We discussed general regulations regarding safety policies and procedures. No volunteers are used at this site.

No hazardous materials or objects were noted accessible to children. Items should not be stacked to prevent a toppling hazard. Any cabinetry not stabilized or anchored should be weighted or anchored to prevent toppling.

I reviewed emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado. The Center was in compliance with emergency drills according to documentation.

Sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed. The program has no pets or plants. Food waste containers were covered. Ventilation was adequate the day of the visit. Cooled and heated air is forced.

We reviewed compliance with regulations regarding child and staff hand washing. Hand washing sinks are available for use in the restrooms. Appropriate paper towel holders were in place. Restrooms are cleaned by school staff at the end of each programming day. Hand washing posters were present in the restrooms. Sufficient toileting articles and hand washing supplies were observed in the restroom. Children are required to be potty trained to participate in the program. Cleaner and other toxic chemicals are kept out of reach.

Outdoor Playground:

The school has a fenced outdoor play area attached to the building.

I inspected the play area, but it was somewhat snow and ice covered. Child Care Nurse Consultant Toni Krana will conduct an Injury Prevention Checklist in March. .

Program Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

Field trips are not taken at this time. Transportation is not provided.

Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports which establishes a separate behavior plan for each child depending on the level of the child's social skills. Interventions include verbal reminders of appropriate behavior, direct instruction in problem solving skills, redirection, planned to ignore, positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior, and short time out periods of age-appropriate length.

Required notices and postings were present. Emergency numbers were posted. No smoking signs are posted on the outside door. Child care consultant information and the mandatory reporter postings were present Fire and tornado drill logs were in the HHS Licensing Book and were complete. Emergency numbers for Fire, Police, and Poison Control were posted as was the centers contact information.

Child files are reviewed annually. All children had updated child health forms, emergency contacts, medical and dental information, pick up and field trip authorizations.

Child care staff professional development and other requirements are reviewed annually. This program employs one or two staff. CPR/First Aid training must be updated every two years. All staff were current with certified training. Mandatory Reporter training must be updated every 3 years. All staff had current training in this area. All staff signed a waiver at the beginning of employment stating they had no criminal convictions. FBI National Fingerprint checks are due every four years. All employees were up to date on fingerprints. All employees had current Iowa Criminal Record checks. They are due every two years.

Required written policies are provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook. Emergency medical and dental procedures are written and well defined. It also contained an unlimited access policy.

The Emergency Preparedness Plan for this site should be developed and staff trained on the plan.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program fills a need voiced by the community.

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

1. 109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children.Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards.If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers-

Continuity of operations-

The center needs an EPP for this site. Staff should be trained on the plan so they know how to react in an emergency.

2. 109.15(2) Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking. The Director agreed to ensure menus are kept.

3. 109.6(2) Director or on-site supervisor on-site during the hours of operation or a minimum of six hours of center's hours of operation. Information on on-site supervisor's qualifications is submitted to the consultant prior to employment and is sufficient to make a determination. On-site supervisor meets qualifications or is "qualifiable" with a plan established to meet qualifications. Since the initial visit the OSS left the position. The program will close until an OSS or Director can be present daily. The children currently enrolled will attend care at the sister center.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center begin in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period. In addition, if a center is issued a license indicating it is fully in compliance with licensing requirements, but at a later date within the license period fails to be in compliance, the Department may reduce a license to a provisional status.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information. Consultant Norton provided consultation to Mt Pleasant CC 44 times in the last calendar year in person (the sister program), phone, text, and video call around licensing, supervision, health and safety, curriculum, schedules, behavior, quality initiatives. Cairece has shown great growth in her knowledge and willingness of the regulations and reaches out regularly with questions. Consultant Norton stated the following, "I have been to Panther Zone twice to look at the space, talk about supervision and licensing requirements as well as checking the files, etc...as well as several phone calls/emails with either/both Cairece and Kaela (no longer employed with Panter Zone)."

IHHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant with IDPH. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Mandi Lauderman Nurse Consultants (Iowa Department of Public Health) serves as CCNC for this center. The center is responsible for contacting CCNC Krana for consultation regarding health and safety issues such as hand washing, outdoor play area regulations, toppling or tipping hazards, etc....

CCNC Krana has provided the following the past year: MPCC-(the sister program, same Director)
2/5/24- Onsite visit worked with staff on child with behavioral issues
3/1/24- Medication Class information given
3/5/04- Guidance on illness and medication policy
4/16/24- guidance on sever weather
4/29/24- immunization record request
5/21/24- medication class question
5/22/24- child with special needs discussed
5/23/24- Onsite visit to test out 5 providers on Medication Administration
6/10/24,6/11/24,6/12/24- worked with center and family with a child with special needs
6/17/24- medication issue
6/13/24- Onsite Visit tested out 1 provider on Medication Administration and child with special needs addresses
7/22/24- information given on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of surfaces
7/26/24- Onsite visit Safe Sleep Training provided
9/24/24- question about pink eye
9/25/24- immunization request
9/26/24- Onsite visit immunization audit completed
10/2/24- IEP reviewed for child
10/3/24, 10/8/24- Immunization request
10/9/24- guidance on a newborn with fever
10/16/24- immunization request
11/4/24- Medication Policy guidance
11/7/24, 11/15/24-Immunization request
12/9/24- CPR class set up with Amy Hayes CCNC for Lee County
12/16/24- Guidance on Hand, Foot and Mouth
12/26/24-Onsite visit, General visit to see how things were going

12/27/24- Immunization request

CCNC Krana will conduct a Health and Safety Assessment in March.

*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.