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

Name of Center: Learn and Play PS & DCC - Cedar Falls **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36290

Street: 4710 Cedar Heights DR **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 4710 Cedar Heights DR, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Mary Sires, Tammy Lies & Tera Smith **Phone Number:** 319-266-7944

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mary Sires, Tammy Lies & Tera Smith **E-Mail:** sires_mary@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-11-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-03-2025

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

Date Inspected: 05-18-2023

Comments : The program added an addition to their existing building. The new addition was approved for use by the fire marshal on 04/03/24.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	33	81	0	127
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-30-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 06/11/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Learn and Play Preschool and Daycare Center in Cedar Falls. I met with Tammy Lies, one of the directors of the center. Ms. Lies has worked for the Learn and Play organization since May 2007 and was previously a co-director at the Evansdale site. Tera Smith is also a director for the program. She is currently at the Evansdale location. Ms. Smith has been employed with Learn and Play since 2001. Mary Sires is a director and owner of the center. There are fifteen staff members employed by the center that cares for children.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The center opened in Cedar Falls in August 2011. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm and serves infants through preschool aged children. There are currently 36 children enrolled. The program has an IQ4K level of 1.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room (Bunnies), toddler room (Caterpillars), two and three-year-old room (Dinosaurs), and four and five-year-old room (Monkeys). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, feelings and pictures of the children and their families. There is an area for circle time in the rooms for the older children.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, listening, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, play dough, science, puppets, writing, math, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

In the toddler room there was a staff purse within reach of the children. All personal items must be kept out of the reach of children.

Cribs and cots are used to nap.

There are two bathrooms in the hallway of the original building. One bathroom has two toilets and one sink. The other bathroom has one toilet, one urinal and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are bathrooms located in the classrooms in the new addition. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted. There are sinks in each room and handwashing procedures were posted in most locations. Please post handwashing procedures in the infant room near both sinks. Diaper changing procedures were posted near most diaper changing tables. Please post diaper changing procedures near the changing table in the infant room. I observed or discussed diaper changes. In the infant room the child's hands were not washed following the diaper change with soap and water. This must always occur.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Activities are based upon weekly themes. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review. The teachers complete assessments on the

children a minimum of three times each year using the ASQ Assessment tool for children ages six weeks through two-years-old and the Creative Curriculum GOLD assessments for children who are three, four and five-years-old. They also complete ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 assessments. Daily schedules were posted in each room.

The center uses the ProCare app for their daily sheets on children under the age of two and to communicate with the families of all ages.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the evacuation diagram near the door to the hallway in the Dinosaur room and near the door by the sink in the Caterpillar room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2022 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. The carbon monoxide detectors are part of the fire system on the ceiling of each of the rooms. There is also a carbon monoxide in the furnace room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/18/23. The new addition was approved by the fire marshal on 04/03/24.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center serves the children breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Judi Dark and Tammy Lies are the primary cooks. Meals are served in the rooms. Family style is used in the Monkey room and the staff members serve the younger children. The center uses a four-week rotation of menus. Dishes from all rooms are returned to the kitchen where they are put through the dishwasher. Menus and allergies were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were thermometers present in all the refrigerators and freezers.

The center provides the infants with one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If parents prefer a different brand, they must supply their own. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized in the dishwasher or by the three-step method.

The center uses Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. There is a resource shelf available in this area as well. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has two outdoor play areas. One area has woodchips for surface cushioning. There is a concrete path for riding toys. There are playhouses, sensory tables, rocking toys, a transportation center and dramatic play equipment. There are picnic tables, and a tarp is available to provide shade.

The second area has a concrete sidewalk but is mostly grass. There are basketball hoops, sensory tables, large blocks, dramatic play equipment and playhouses. Picnic tables are available for the children to rest. A tarp is available for shade.

There are also two gross motor rooms in the center for when the children cannot go outside. One area is for older children and one area is for younger children.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information and one file did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

The center has a great administrative team with several years of experience in childcare. They create a positive environment for staff members to work in. I observed staff members talk with the children about using their words to solve problems and about taking turns. They provided the children with good handwashing reminders and several of them sang with the children as they washed their hands. Staff members provide the children with a good routine and use play to teach the children colors and numbers. Staff members offered the children choices. They were patient and nurturing with children who have difficult behaviors at times. Staff members were on the floor with the children. They were actively engaged in play and encouraged the children to use their imaginations. Staff members had good knowledge of the children's developmental needs and social-emotional needs. The children appear to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 1.

Ms. Lies states they have great communication between staff members and with parents.

Ms. Lies states staff members have good relationships with parents. She states she took a lot of time to build relationships with the parents after the previous director left.

Ms. Lies states she has a good relationship with the staff members. She said the center has a staff break room but several workers take their breaks in her office.

Ms. Lies states they opened their large playground area, which will be used for children aged two years old and older.

The center uses owlets in the infant room.

The center has a Donuts for Dads event for Father's Day and a Muffins with Mom for Mother's Day.

The center is in a secure building and there are cameras in the classrooms, hallways, on the playgrounds and in the parking lot.

Ms. Lies maintains an organized licensing binder and organized staff and children's files. I appreciate this.

The center has a fairly new constructed wing to the existing building. They are operating out of two of the three new rooms. The former rooms for these age groups in the original building are now gross motor rooms for those specific age groups. This is nice for when the children cannot go outside because of the weather.

The center provided a Program Wide Early Childhood Positive Behavior and Supports Cohort Training. The certificate is good until 05/05/28. The door in the entrance is decorated with PBIS information.

The center practices intruder drills in addition to fire and tornado drills.

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

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information and one file did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Tera Smith as an additional director at this site.

*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.