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

Name of Center: Discoveries Learning Center - Eagle St Campus **Enrollment:** 95 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52115

Street: 541 E Eagle St **City:** Denver Iowa **Zip** 50622 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: PO Box 680, Denver, IA, 50622

Director's Name: Kathy Bohlmann **Phone Number:** 319-406-0053

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jocelyn Milius **E-Mail:** disc.extended.day@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-18-2023

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:** 07-23-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-10-2023

Comments :

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	0	0	0	120	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-21-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-26-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 10/18/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Discoveries Learning Center-Eagle Street Campus. I met with Kathy Bohlmann, the director and owner. Ms. Bohlmann has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. She has previous experience as a director, is a Child Care Resource and Referral instructor and she has worked for Head Start. Ms. Bohlmann is also the director and owner of the Discoveries Learning Center-Denver Campus and the Discoveries Learning Center-Waverly Campus. Jocelyn Milius is the on-site supervisor. She worked for Discoveries Learning Center from November 2016 though January 2021 and returned to the program in August 2023. She has a BA in social work and is currently in the master's program. The center employs ten staff members.

The center is in the former Denver High School building. The elementary school is also located in this building. They were given permission to open on 08/21/23. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30-8:00 am and 3:00-5:45 pm. The program serves school-age children. They will only operate on school days during the school year. When there is no school the school-age children will be cared for at Discoveries Learning Center-Denver Campus. There are 95 children enrolled. The program space has a capacity of 120 children.

The center operates out of the following rooms: there are two kindergarten rooms, a first grade room, a second grade room and a room for third through fifth graders. There is a bonus room that is used to store snacks, but it is also used for group activities, such as when Iowa State University Extension visits the center for a group activity. They were present the day of my visit the theme was rainbows. One of the kindergarten rooms is used during the morning hours for children kindergarten through fifth grade.

An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. Some of the rooms are decorated with the children's art projects.

The centers observed at the center include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, arts/crafts, dramatic play, math, magnets and woodworking. 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 were easily accessible to the children. In the room for children grades third through fifth you must secure the electrical cord for the pencil sharpener.

I visited the program during the afternoon program. The program was in ratio. The number of children present at the program is always changing because of children arriving and leaving.

There is a phone in each room and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number and poison control's number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. There was a daily schedule available for review in the licensing binder but it must be posted where it can be seen by parents and visitors.

There are bathrooms in the hallway. The girls' bathroom has four toilets and two sinks and the boys' bathroom has three

toilets, three urinals and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are additional bathrooms throughout the building the children can use.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The childcare portion of the building is all electric, but the rest of the building does have fuel burning appliances. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in all the classrooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/10/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The program serves an afternoon snack. They have a two week rotation of menus. The program receives breakfast and lunch through the school once they are released from childcare. The cost of the snack is included in the tuition. There is a refrigerator in the office area and a thermometer was present. The children eat in their classrooms. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not necessary. Allergies were confidentially posted. Snacks are stored in the "bonus room". They were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. When there is no school because of weather the children bring a cold lunch from home and the center provides breakfast and an afternoon snack. If there is a late start the children bring a cold lunch from home. When there are professional development days, holidays and during the summer, the children will be cared for at the Denver Campus.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing table.

There is a large fenced in play area available for the children.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. 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.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve children files. They were in great condition.

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.

Staff members were observed to have positive interaction with the children. They were on the floor actively participating in activities. They had good teamwork and a good routine. While the children met with ISU Extension the staff members assisted with the projects. Positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members maintained positive conversation with the children and asked them about their day at school. They moved around the room to interact with all the children. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Bohlmann states the renovations to turn the former high school into a school-age before and after school program on time. The center opened on its planned date.

Ms. Bohlmann states they began the school year fully staffed.

Ms. Bohlmann states they had an open house the day before they opened to welcome parents and students to the new space.

Ms. Bohlmann states they were able to purchase new tables, chairs and flex seating for the space.

The ISU Extension program visits the center once each month and gives the children a presentation on different topics.

Information regarding staff members is posted outside each room.

The school janitors clean the childcare floors and bathrooms for them.

The program goals include enroll more students, add additional materials and supplies to the classrooms in alignment with SACERS, begin having conversations about Phase 2 of the renovation projects and what that looks like.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

*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.