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

Name of Center: Childserve Child Care - Ames **Enrollment:** 118 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16849

Street: 1915 Philadelphia ST **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 5406 Merle Hay RD, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Emily Hofer **Phone Number:** 515-232-7220

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachelle Flory **E-Mail:** emilyho@childserve.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-22-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-17-2021

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

Date Inspected: 07-29-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. This center has built additions and the fire inspector was on sight 8/10/23; upon the annex as well.

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 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	47	17	41	30	135
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-02-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This report is to serve as an administrative change/update to licensing capacity. The center has elected to include space meant to serve as programming space for traditional child care; only. The center will be comprised of the main building; and an annex, located directly south of the main building; and for the purposes of this report, both will be considered a campus. There is an day health/medical childcare center on site, that is licensed separately at this time. A fire inspection of the annex and main building space was completed 8-10-23. A visit to the annex space was completed 10-22-24 with director Emily Hofer.

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An unannounced annual visit was competed 8-5-24, with all areas of the program having been observed. Director Emily Hofer were present for most of the visit.

Childserve Child Care - Ames has been in operation since the mid-1990's and since 2000 in the current building . There are four Child Serve Centers, the others being located in Des Moines and Johnston. This is one of the four child care centers operated by Childserve (other centers being located in Des Moines and Johnston). The administrative offices are located in Johnston with Barb Williams as the Service Manger for the Childserve centers. This center offers traditional child care for children ages newborn to five; along with providing care for children with special needs. Emily Hofer is the director of this center. She has a degree in Family and Consumer Science and has worked at this center since 2005. Emily is currently working toward her Master's degree. Rachelle Flory is the on-site supervisor, as well as the Ames Child Serve manager. Rachelle has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences, she has worked at Child Serve for over 20 years.

Aside from the child care program, there are other services offered in this building. There is a large room for the physical therapy program that is provided to people within the community and Childserve consumers. There is a respite area that is used to provide care to people of all ages with special needs; Day Health Program that uses the respite area. This program provides care to children with significant medical needs. The ratio is much lower than required. These medically fragile children are more susceptible to illnesses and by being in their own area they are more protected from exposure to germs and sickness.

The center opened an Autism Day Health Program in August of 2017. This is designed for early intervention of Autism. It is based on the program they currently offer at the Childserve located in Johnston. This program will serve children age two and above. The ratio is lower than required, a one staff to three children ratio. Childserve Child Care- Ames has nearly doubled the size of the building, with 3 rooms, that accommodate 14 consumers in each that increased the capacity of the center by 42.

All areas of the center were observed on 8/5/24.

Observation of Rooms: The center is starting to use ASQ curriculum with younger children and creative curriculum for older children. Playground is the application used to communicate with parents. The center was in ratio and rooms were observed with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers and toys. Staff were engaged with the children by leading group activities and/our actively supervising independent play. There is good structure observed to be maintained by staff. Handwashing posters are by sinks along with emergency exit diagrams.

Center Nutrition: Childserve Ames has a on-site kitchen and dedicated cook. The menus are in a rotation and appear to follow CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The kitchen was clean and organized. Lunch and snack are served family-style in the classrooms. Refrigeration was observed to have the necessary temperature monitoring and appeared in good condition.

Health and Safety: medications are stored in secured areas, often administered by nursing staff. Ready access to handwashing sinks was observed and in use. First aid kits are stocked and available. Emergency fire and tornado drills were noted to have been completed. Radon testing was completed 11/2022 and was under the cutoff for safety. There is a maintenance team that provides continuous maintenance to the facility. This center is over-all very clean and organized, with space for personal items for the children attending also being organized.

Playground: This center has several sectioned playground areas, divided by ages. Safety surfacing on the ground was pour 'n' play. Additionally the playground sections were physically divided by fence/gates, providing ample access to natural light with shaded areas, grassy areas and some pavement. The children were able to have water play days over the summer. There will be an added exit gate for emergency purposes.

Administrative Record Review: The center has conspicuously posted mandatory reporter information, access to handbook, consultant contact information, license, along with emergency exits for fires and emergency plans for tornado. There were non-smoking signs also posted. Eight child files were reviewed and contained all necessary information; six staff files were reviewed, with only one missing a statement to attest not having founded child abuse, drug use, and knowledge of being a mandatory reporter. The center is updating the filing process and most are electronic; with staff files being kept at central office by human resources, which made them available for review when requested.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has attained IQ4K level 3 and plans to submit application for Level 4.

The staff are more prepared to care for children with special needs and have access to services for these children which is meant to provide additional reassurance for parents.

The center offers a Day Health Program for children who are medically fragile, as well as an Autism Day Program.

The center provides an integration of child care with a component of therapy if needed for a child. The center offers adaptive technology, speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

The center offers on-site screenings for children.

The staff are educated, all of the lead teachers have degrees in Early Education or their CDA.

The center provides a needed service in the community.

The center continues participating in the WAGES program for their staff.

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

NA--administrative change/update.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The furnace is inspected monthly, with a larger inspection completed annually before winter. The center has dedicated maintenance staff.

The center staff were observed actively engaged with leading group activities or actively supervising the children, who appeared happy and content. The center provides care for children with higher level, more complex or medical fragility needs. The staff were observed to provide structure in the room worked well together.

*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.