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

**Name of Center:** Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc **Enrollment:** 76 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51936

**Street:** 308 N. Railroad St. **City:** Sumner Iowa **Zip** 50674 **County:** Bremer

**Mailing Address:** 308 N. Railroad St., Sumner, IA, 50674

**Director's Name:** Jonathan Rader **Phone Number:** 563-578-5222

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Lesley Mohlis **E-Mail:** sumnerdaycare.director@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:**

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-21-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 10-14-2024

**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 | 21 | 21 | 46 | 16 | 104 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Becky Frost **Date:** 04-28-2025

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 08/07/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Sumner Daycare and Learning Center in Sumner. I met with Maranda Reuter, the director. Ms. Reuter started with the program on 12/12/22. She has a BA in management, an AA in Accounting and she is a semester shy of having a BA in elementary education. She has previous experience as a director of a childcare center. The center employs 22 staff members and they have four volunteers.

The program operates out of Durant Elementary. The daycare is a separate entity from the school and operates year-round. It is a non-profit. The center was given permission to open without a license on 09/06/22. The program operates 5:30 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday and serves infants through school-age children. There are currently 76 children enrolled.

The program operates out of four rooms: an infant room, a toddler room (18 months through two-years-old) a preschool room and a school-age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet and numbers. There is an area for circle time. The rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, science/discovery, puppets, dramatic play, writing, math, playdough and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities and 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.

There is a bathroom in the toddler room that has one sink and one toilet. Handwashing procedures were posted. The other bathrooms are in the hallway across from the rooms. The boy's bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and two sinks and the girl's bathroom has five toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are sinks in each room and procedures were posted. There is a diaper changing table in the infant and toddler rooms and diaper changing procedures were posted.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans, but it is based on the Creative Curriculum. Activities are based on themes. Lesson plans were available for review in each room. The children have walked to the public library for a field trip. The public library also provides books to the center to use in the classroom.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and to complete the daily sheets for the children under the age of two. The app is also used for the parents to check the children in and out of the program. Staff members send pictures of the children to parents through the app during the day.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in January 2023 and must be repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the toddler room on the shelf. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/11/22.

The program is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The school is on the food program so CACFP guidelines are being followed. The program contracts breakfast and lunch through the Sumner-Fredericksburg School District. The center provides the morning and afternoon snack. The school provides the program a menu for breakfast and lunch a month at a time. The center is completing snack menus. The school delivers the food to the classroom and teachers dish out the food for the children. Dishes are returned to the school kitchen to be washed through an industrial dishwasher. Disposable products are used for the snack. There is a refrigerator in the office and in the infant room. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Feeding schedules were posted. Staff members wash the bottles in the infant room. They are currently not sanitizing the bottles. This must always occur.

The program uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I discussed diaper changes with the infant and toddler staff members and proper procedures are being followed.

In the toddler room work on the children going directly to the tables to eat prior to eating.

Medication boxes are in the classrooms. The center is getting doctor notes for the dosages of over the counter medications when it is necessary.

Cribs and cots are used in the infant room and cots are used to nap in the rooms for the older 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.

The center uses the school preschool playground and the school-age playground. The preschool has a fenced in playground area. Rubber mulch is used for surface cushioning. The playground has climbing equipment with slides, a playhouse and a merry-go-round. Children take toys outside as well. Shade is provided by tress.

The school-age playground also uses rubber mulch for fall surfacing. They have a large piece of climbing equipment with rings, monkey bars, slides, a fireman pole and a climbing chain wall. They have a large grassy available to play on and a large concrete area with basketball hoops. Trees are available for shade. There are benches to rest. They do not use the merry-go-round, the metal slide or the swings in this area because there is no fall surfacing.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten 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 provide clear and easy to understand directions to the children. Staff members are enthusiastic and provide the children with praise. Staff members sang with the children while they washed their hands. They had conversations with the children about sharing. Staff members provide the children with choices and were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members used play to teach the children about colors and counting. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children enjoyed their time at the center.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. Reuter states she has a good board that supports the center.

Ms. Reuter states she has good team of staff members.

Ms. Reuter states the community support for the center is amazing.

Ms. Reuter states senior citizens from Cobblestone visit the center every Thursday to do activities with the children and the school-age children visit Hillcrest every Thursday to do activities with the residents.

Ms. Reuter states the staff members have great communication and support one another.

Ms. Reuter states they work with great families that step up for the center when they are needed. They started a parent board who helps with fundraising, supply drives, they volunteer in rooms and they created activity kits for the rooms.

Ms. Reuter states the center has a good relationship with the school and they appreciate the school allowing them to use the space. The school cooks for them, the janitor cleans the hallways and bathrooms, and they can use the playground.

The program is in the process of constructing a new childcare center that they hope to move into in approximately two months.

There are pictures of staff members in the entrance.

Ms. Reuter has organized easy to read staff and children files and an organized licensing binder.

The program is in a secured building and there is a camera at the entrance.

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

109.15(5)c: Sanitary methods are used for dishwashing sufficient to prevent transmission of disease.
Additional concerns: Bottles are washed in the infant room, but they are not being sanitized. All dishes, including bottles, must be sanitized. You can use the three-step method, a sanitizer or send them to the kitchen to be put through the dishwasher.

**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 remove Sara Dana as an on-site supervisor.

An administrative change is being made on 10/21/24. The program moved to a new location today. They are operating out of a new building at 308 N. Railroad Street in Sumner. The new building has a capacity of 104 children. I visited the new site on 08/07/24.

In November 2024 an administrative change is being made to remove Maranda Reuter as the director. Her employment ended on 11/01/24. The program is actively looking for a director. Lesley Mohlis is being named an on-site supervisor and the person in charge until a director is hired.

An administrative change is being made to name Jonathan Rader as the new director. He started this role in April 2025. He has an AAS in an unrelated field and almost two years of experience in childcare. Stephanie Duhrkopf will be handling administrative duties and will take over as director when she has enough points.

*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.