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

Name of Center: Creative Center For Young Children **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27822

Street: 1001 Pleasant ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1001 Pleasant ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Amanda Claussen **Phone Number:** 515-280-3032

On-Site Supervisor(s): Nicole Van Cleave and Deimy Ramos **E-Mail:** director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-29-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-01-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-04-2025

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal. A fire inspection is required at least every three years. Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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: 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	0	12	35	44	91
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-30-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/29/25. The director and main on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Creative Center for Young Children is a non-profit child care center located in the First Methodist Church in downtown Des Moines (right next door to Methodist Hospital). The center opened for business in August of 1991. Amanda Claussen is the director as of 10/2022. Amanda was previously the on-site supervisor. Amanda has a BA degree in Early Childhood and has worked in child care for many years. Nicole Van Cleave is the main on-site supervisor as of 11/2022. Nicole has an AA in Early Childhood and has past experience working in child care. Deimy Ramos is another on-site supervisor. Deimy has experience and training. All three individuals meet the licensing requirements for director and on-site supervisors. The center is overseen by a Board.

The center serves children ages two through eleven years of age, Monday through Friday, 6:30 am - 6:30 pm. The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teaching with children. There is a secure entrance into the center area. Parents have a code to enter to the classroom areas. All other visitors must ring a doorbell to gain access.

During the visit this year, some children were again observed in the Creative Movement Room dancing to songs with their staff and incorporating a large motor activity. Some children were observed on the playground with their staff. Some children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Hand washing was also observed during the visit.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff generally get a lot more professional development training than what is required.

The center has many long term staff members and staff with many years of child care experience. All four team leads either have BA degrees or AA degrees, CDAs, and/or working towards these.

Staff pictures and bios are posted in the main hallway. The center also incorporates "shout out" notes for staff recognition.

The center has a strong focus on fine arts.

The center has a creative movement room where Spanish lessons take place once a week. Ballet is taught once a week as well as music and movement, yoga and dance.

The center provides a wide variety of field trip options for school-age children during the summer months.

Teachers send out weekly emails to parents with updates, lesson plans and photographs. The Pro-Care system is also used often.

The center conducts a yearly fundraiser and the money raised goes toward improvements at the center and updates. This year, some updates included new rolling shades for classrooms, a new water fountain outside on the playground, and interior painting.

The center has a website, a Facebook page, and an Instagram page.

The center has a strong working relationship with the church.

Portfolios are prepared for every child for parents to browse through during parent teacher conferences.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

The center participates in the TEACH program.

The director and main on-site supervisor both have their NAC certifications.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The director and on-site supervisor believed they had a good group of staff who work well together.

The center was very clean and has a lot of natural lighting.

Enrollment remains steady.

The center received 100% on their last immunization audit from 12/2024.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
There is a section on the stairs of the climbing structure where the rubber/plastic coating is peeling off. This section should be removed or repaired.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was conducted 7/22/22 - 7/25/22. Radon levels in classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace/boiler inspection was last serviced on 10/31/24 and expires on 10/31/25.

The center owns a bus that they use to take children to/from school and for field trips. The bus has regular maintenance.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. All staff appear to have profiles and training is being uploaded.

There was a typo on the school-age schedules that was pointed out during the visit.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.