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

Name of Center: Creative Minds Daycare **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52259

Street: 1030 S 2nd ST **City:** Cherokee Iowa **Zip** 51012 **County:** Cherokee

Mailing Address: 1030 S 2nd ST, Cherokee, IA, 51012

Director's Name: Tina Olson **Phone Number:** 712-321-3434

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Flaugh **E-Mail:** creativemindsdaycarecherokee@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-26-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-10-2023

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: 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	12	9	10	52
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 09-03-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was made to Creative Kids Childcare Center on 08-26-24 where I met with center director Tina Olson. Visit was delayed due to director being out on medical leave. Creative Childcare was an in home program and switched to a childcare center. Ms. Olson was in charge of the in home program for about 4 years and prior to that worked in a childcare center. Ms. Olson has a 2 year degree in medical assistance. Ms. Olson is qualified to be director as well as experience in early childcare programs. This program is located in a building that used to be a bank and has been remodeled for childcare. The facility has 5 classrooms. The center provides programming for ages 6 weeks to school age. Hours of the program are Monday thru Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm. Capacity is 52.

There are currently 52 children enrolled in the center. At the time of the visit there were 36 children present. The daycare has 5 rooms, infant, 1yr old room, 2/3 yr room, 4/5yr room, and a school age room. All of the areas of the facility were observed. A reminder that staff purses and cleaning products be out of reach of children. Every room and programming space used has secondary emergency exits. Each of the daycare classrooms either have sink and toilet facilities available in the classroom or shared facilities located nearby. Many of the classrooms have windows that provide natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors.

The birth to one year old infant room has an open layout. All of the cribs have solid barrier ends to help reduce disease transmission,
and some of the cribs have stronger frames and larger wheels to serve as evacuation cribs. The center uses the Bright Wheel App. to where infant daily sheets are maintained and documented. Good interactions were observed with all staff being down on the floor interacting with the children or otherwise attending to their needs. A good variety of toys and materials were present and observed to be in good repair.

The older 1 year old room was bright and had alot of natural light. There were sufficient amount of toys for the children to play with. Observed staff having good communication with the children and giving them direction and assisting them with tasks. Also observed the children eating lunch. The 1 year old room did have two - two year olds in the room and had not bumped children to next room. Program had the preschool room not being used and children were combined. It is recommended to utilize that preschool room to move older 3 year olds over so that two year olds can be moved out of the 1year old room two year old developmental differences. Director stated she will look at room arrangements when needed for 2 year olds and up and open the PS room to accomodate so two years olds have advanced.

The two to three year old room is a large open space that has is connected by a common bathroom to the 1 year old room. Again toys and equipment were observed to be in good repair and age appropriate.

The four to five year old classroom was observed to be clean with a good design layout. There is a group of preschoolers who attend a preschool program within the community in the morning and a group that attend preschool in the afternoon. The local school buses these children or has a busing system that transport the children to the center. The preschool room was empty as they utilized the school age room as it is a bigger room.

The school age program also was observed to be clean with a good design layout. At the time of the visit the school agers were at school so the and the preschoolers were using this room. Reminder that staff purses and cleaning products are out of reach of children.

NUTRITION:
The program makes their meals onsite. Meals are portioned out for serving in the classrooms. Food items are stored in a main storage area, as well as limited supplies in classrooms. In addition to the main refrigerators in the storage area each of the classrooms also have a small refrigerator present. Food storage practices were good. Meals are served in the classroom with the teachers sitting with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

The center does follow the CACFP guidelines but is not currently on the food program. A menu is posted that indicates a good variety of nutritious meal options.

HEALTH & SAFETY:
The center does have established policies and procedures regarding the authorization, administration, documentation, and storage of medications. The center uses both formal medication administration forms for prescription and non-prescription medications. Medications are stored in lock boxes in areas that are not readily accessible to the children or the public, however, at this time no child is in need of any medication. First aid kits were present in each classroom and generally stocked with supplies sufficient to address common first aid needs. Kits are stored in areas where they are readily available but not accessible to the children. Good sanitation policies and procedures have been established for the center with staff directed to provide supervision in bathrooms and assisting the children as needed. Policies and schedules are in place for regular cleaning of equipment and play materials. Inspection certificates for the fire marshal, furnace, emergency drills, playground inspections, and a carbon monoxide detector were current and present in the center. Radon testing was completed and in normal range. Since the center was previously a bank there is an ATM outside of the building which the community still uses. The ATM will remain at this location for 4 more years and then the bank will relocate it. The center is monitoring the activity of the ATM to ensure that it does not affect any safety concerns from drivers that utilize it.

PLAYGROUND:
The playground area is adjacent to the building with an overhang for shade. The playground has climbing equipment with appropriate surfacing.
The equipment was previously observed to be in good repair. Shade is provided by a picnic shelter which also has a paved area where children can use chalk, riders, or play games. The program has also planted trees on the outside of the fence to add additional shade.

TRANSPORTATION:
The center does do field trips. Parents provide a general release at the time of enrollment for any field trips. Center has a 12 passanger van for field trips which are mainly done in the summer. Maintenance log was provided. The school bus does transport children to and from preschool/school.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS:
The center staff and parent handbooks have been reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

Goals of the program is to get on the IQ4K program, install new security system with key phob or card entry, change to contract billing, and look at expanding onto the building.

Ms. Olson feels the strengths of the program is that staff interact well with the children and have developed a good relationship with the children and families that they serve. The center holds monthly staff meetings and utilizes the Childcare Bright Wheel app.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Toys are at children's level and accessible.

Center displays children's art work in the rooms.

Good room arrangement throughout the center.

Center uses the Bright Wheel app to communicate with families and what is going on in the program.

Very positive interaction with the children

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

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 2
Information lacking: Information was missing

109.11(2)
A safe and properly equipped area is provided for infants that does not allow for intrusion by children over two years of age. Children over age two who remain in the infant area are placed at the recommendation of a physician or AEA due to a significant developmental delay. Children are placed for a limited time with DHS approval if doing so does not pose a threat to the infants.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Cleaning products and staff purses need to be out of reach of children for safety.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please email licensing consultant confirming that those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards have been corrected no later than 10-01-24.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.