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

Name of Center: Colts Corner Daycare Center **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51980

Street: 503 4th ST NE **City:** Belmond Iowa **Zip** 50421 **County:** Wright

Mailing Address: 503 4th ST NE, Belmond, IA, 50421

Director's Name: Maya Varner **Phone Number:** 641-384-4499

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** ccdcbelmond@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-03-2025

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:** 09-13-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-19-2023

Comments : Temporary approval granted 09-30-22. Final approval granted 01-19-23

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	43	18	54	31	146
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-06-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the center on 03-03-25. I met with the center director, Maya Varner who took over the director position in July 2023. Maya is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor degree in Psychology & Family Services, prior experience working with Head Start, and on-going training. The program opened in the fall of 2022 following a community effort to build a daycare center. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The program provides full range child care serving infants through school age children. There are 52 children currently enrolled in the center served by 20 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visits.

The program is located in a renovated school building and the layout and design of the building, and programming remains the same as observed in prior visits. While the daycare is the only programming occuring building during the daily hours of operation part of the space that is used as an indoor large motor skill room and the kitchen are available to be rented for public use as a community center on the weekends when the daycare is not in operation. The classroom renovations were designed specifically to support daycare program with restroom facilities, and sinks directly accessible in each classroom so that children do not need to leave the room. All hand washing sinks use mixer valves to prevent hot water scald injuries. There are 3 interconnected classrooms along the west side of the building that are available for infant care with the infants divided by age and developmental levels. In addition there are 3 classrooms along the south side of the building that are also interconnected used for the 2 and 3 year old children though one of those rooms is currently being used for storage. Two stand alone rooms are used for the 4 year old, and school age children. Each room has large banks of windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. As noted the three infant rooms have interconnecting doors, and the 2 year old and 3 year old classrooms also have interconnecting doors. The interconnecting doors provide secondary egress through the adjoining rooms. During the visit the extra 2-3 year old classroom being used for storage did have items stacked in front of the connecting door. Given that this is a designated emergency exit for the other classrooms access does need to be maintained so that it is clear of obstruction. The school age room has several exits, and the 4 year old room has a direct exit to the outdoors. Evacuation notices with both written and diagram instructions were posted by all exits as required. The facilities were observed to be clean with no maintenance issues noted. Each classroom is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Each center was stocked with a variety of toys that were observed to be in good repair and generally appropriate to the ages of the children. There were a large number of toys that had parts less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length which would be considered choking hazards for children under 4 year of age and need to be removed. Copies of the daily schedule and planned curriculums were posted for each classroom with the exception of the infant rooms.

All staff were providing supervision to the children and attending to their needs. Some staff provided more observational supervision and other more active play engagement, but all had a strong focus on safety and directing the children toward appropriate play. Several staff did inquire about supervision questions and options when engaged in specific care activities such as assisting children with toileting or diapering. Options such as positioning, and room rearrangement were discussed. During the visit several staff also inquired about curriculum planning and implementation especially in the infant rooms. Options for identifying a general focus theme, and how to create activities intended to help the children develop specific

skills were discussed. The center approach to behavior management includes the use of positive intervention techniques such as praise, redirection, and engaging the children in activities to help reduce the incidence of behavioral issues. As noted the staff were focused on safety related issues with redirecting children that were engaged in activities such as climbing on furniture, or engaging in physical play with peers. All staff used calm and positive tones when speaking to the children. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but some practice do need to be reviewed. I was able to observe a diaper change in the 2 year old room where the teacher did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change. In addition while conducting the diaper change the child continually wanted to stand on the changing table, and had also identified wanting to go into the restroom rather than use the changing table. It was discussed that standing on the changing station did increase the risk of injury from a fall as well as serving as an indicator that the child may be ready for transitioning to toilet training. Good hand washing practices were observed in all other classrooms. Chemical cleaners, personal items, over the counter medications, and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. The center does have good medication policies in place that include a centralized medication storage cabinet, and designation of specific staff authorized to administer medications. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. One issue that was noted is that staff in the 4 year old preschool classroom used the hand washing sinks in the restroom to fill child water bottles. It was reviewed that when changing between use purposes the sinks should be sanitized to reduce the risk of disease transmission. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom, and additional supplies are maintained in storage. Phones and emergency contact numbers were present in each classroom. Safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room. Other classrooms also followed good practices with having sufficient illumination to allow staff to observe the children, spacing between cots/cribs to reduce the risk of disease transmission, and having appropriate bedding on all cots and cribs.

The center does have a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no indications of rodent or insect infestation. Good food storage practices were observed in the kitchen with thermometers present in all refrigeration and freezer units and left over food items labeled with the date placed in storage and the contents. Dry pantry food items were stored in air tight sealable food grade containers. Meals are served in the classrooms and transported in covered dishes. The teachers do pre-portion the meals and used measured scoops, and food service gloves. A copy of the planned menu was posted and followed and the served meal included fruit cocktail, broccoli, a sandwich, and milk. While in one of the infant rooms staff were observed to serve the children without modifying food items to reduce the risk of choking. This included leaving whole grapes in the fruit cocktail, and leaving the sandwich intact as a single item. When serving children under 4 years of age food items that have a high rate of choking need to be modified so that they do not have a round shape, cut into smaller sizes, or cooked so that they are soft and easy to chew. The staff did cut the food items for those children when this was pointed out. Staff were given the option to be served and eat with the children, and those that chose not to did provide supervision at the table.

The center playground area has a variety of equipment including climbing and non-climbing structures. All equipment was observed to be in good repair. Fall surfacing beneath climbing structures is a unitary foam system. The playground also has a paved area where riding toys, sidewalk chalk, and other activities needing a hard surface can be used, and a large open grassy area. The playground is enclosed by the building and chain link fencing. A awning structure provides shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for mandatory reporting, no smoking, consultant contact, and permission to open letter were posted in an area that was readily visible to parents and visitors. In reviewing staff a child files the center was working to update a self-review of both an several issues were identified. With regard to child files all children with the exception of those that were recently enrolled needed an updated physical and annual review. Infant daily sheets were being completed in a communication application but documentation was inconsistent with regard to daily activities and disposition. In reviewing staff files many needed an updated or initial physical, had not completed the required training within the first 90 days, and 4 had not submitted fingerprints for the FBI national background check. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates fire and tornado drills were not completed for a majority of the year and none since July of 2024. Inspections had not been completed for Radon, Playground, for Fuel Burning appliances. The center parent and staff handbooks were previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Maya did identify that she has a very good group of staff that work well together and several very strong leaders. Maya stated that the center is also working to build relationships in the community with various programs, and parents.

Maya stated that the center is completing their application and enrollment in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and will be looking at participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- Number not in compliance: 8

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 7

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 50

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Drills were not completed for fire or tornado evacuation monthly as required with no drills for either being completed since July 2024.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
-- Inspections were not conducted monthly as required.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Testing was not completed as required.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Inspection was not completed as required.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Items and toys with parts of less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length and are considered choking hazards for children under 4 years of age.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- Staff did not wash infants hands following diapering. Diapering procedures posting was not present by all changing stations.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
-- Foods including whole grapes, and a sandwich were served to infants without being cut into smaller bite sized pieces that eliminated round shapes.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A plan of correction was discussed with Maya regarding a referral to Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) would be

made, and actions that would need to be completed by 03-07-25. Maya did provide documentation via e-mail on 03-04-25 that all staff needing FBI fingerprint checks had completed cards which were submitted, a calendar of planned emergency drills and inspections had been created, a radon test kit was being obtained, and the center maintenance employee had HVAC certification and would conduct an inspection of all fuel burning appliances. Maya stated that all staff and parents had been notified to provide updated documentation for files by 03-31-25 after which individuals would be removed from the schedule until documentation was provided.

A full license is recommended at this time. A referral to CCR&R has been made to assist the center with developing a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.