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

Name of Center: America's Children of Oakmoor **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26365

Street: 4731 Merle Hay Rd **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50322 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 4731 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, IA, 50322

Director's Name: Robin Vannausdle **Phone Number:** 515-270-2220

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jackie Putz **E-Mail:** americaschildren@live.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-25-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-14-2021

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

Date Inspected: 04-04-2023

Comments : Fire inspections due at least every three years.

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	48	24	48	75	195
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-31-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed on 10-25-23. The Director and On-Site Supervisor were present throughout the visit.

America's Children of Oakmoor has been in operation since 1992. This child care center is attached to the Oakmoor Health Club, although the health club has closed. Robin Vannausdle has been the director since June of 1992. She has an Elementary Education degree. Jackie Putz has been the Assistant Director since 2006. Jackie began working at this center in May of 1993. She has an AA degree in Child Development. Both meet criteria for their positions.

The center provides care to children ages 6 weeks up to school age. The center is open from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

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

Room Observations: The center has 9 enclosed classrooms. Staff were in ration. The center uses creative curriculum for lesson plans, that were posted; and the Bright Wheel Application to communicate with parents. Handwashing posters were hung; and staff were observed to model good handwashing technique and require this of the children. The lesson themes centered on Fall/Apples. The center uses Clorox industrial hydrogen peroxide for cleaning/sanitizing. Discussion/reminders took place to be sure and clean/sanitize under the changing mats also. The rooms were nicely arranged and well-stocked with centers/activities/toys. The center has several libraries of books and activities available to the children and to staff for staff-lead read-aloud.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated kitchen staff/cook for meal preparation. The menus are posted, in a 4 week rotation and appear to be in-line with CACFP programs. The kitchen was tidy with organized dry storage and refrigerated storage. Meals are served family-style in the classroom where staff interact with the children during lunch.

Health and Safety: When medication is needed, this is stored securely in a high-level cupboard in the kitchen. Good handwashing techniques were modeled with signs posted. The center has first aid kits which are in the process of being updated for the IQ4K criteria. Tornado/Fire plans are posted and drills are documented as having been completed monthly. Radon testing was completed in 10/2023 and all rooms tested, tested below 4.0 cutoff. The heating and cooling systems are professionally inspected twice yearly. There are carbon monoxide detectors in the entry and halls.

Playground: The playground is enclosed by a combination of wood and chain link fencing, which was in good repair. There is ample natural shade. Surfacing is artificial. Privacy to the playground is set up by a natural mature tree line. Structures were in good repair with ample safe surfacing. Playground checks were documented to have been completed monthly.

Transportation/Field Trips: there is not transportation provided at this time; field trips in the summer are mostly hiking.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs are posted. Two child files were reviewed and all necessary information was located. Two staff files were reviewed. One file needed updated SING (Iowa Child/Dependent Adult Abuse checks) and updated FBI (national checks). One staff needed to update CPR/First Aid and the director emailed the updated certificate of CPR/First Aid for this staff dated the same as the visit. This center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is working to apply for higher level in IQ4K quality rating criterion.

Robin and Jackie have been in leadership positions for many years together. They are closely involved with all operations of the center and work well together.

The classrooms in this center are well supplied with child size furnishings, interest centers, toys and educational materials.

Many of the staff have been employed at the center for several years; staff at over 20 years and over 10 years with this center.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum as well as PBIS for social and emotional development.

Robin is very invested in the center and in providing quality care for the children. Robin attends training on brain development and child development and implements what she has learned into the classrooms.

Most classrooms have new furnishings and new equipment.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center is family oriented. There is good communication with families.

The center is using the Bright Wheel app which allows for real time communication with families.

The families are supportive and appreciative of the center.

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: 1
One staff was in need of repeated SING (Iowa Child/Dependent Adult abuse and criminal) checks, along with National (FBI) checks.

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: 1
One staff needed this updated; and the director emailed the certification of completion for CPR/First Aid for this staff, dated the same day as this unannounced visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years and the last test was completed in October of 2023. The radon test was under the 4.0 cutoff.

The annual furnace inspection is completed every fall, in October.

The menu reflects the center is following CACFP guidelines.

This center has several nicely organized libraries for children to choose age-appropriate books and for staff to chose books to read aloud and teach.

*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.