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

Name of Center: ChildServe Johnston Day Health Center **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 44758

Street: 5406 Merle Hay RD **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5406 Merle Hay RD, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Autumn Karmia/Kara Pick **Phone Number:** 515-727-8750

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** KaraPic@childserve.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-18-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-24-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are 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: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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			27		27
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

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

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-30-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off year visit was completed 12-18-24; with both site directors Autumn Karmia and Kara Pick present.

ChildServe Johnston Day Health opened in May 2015. This center is located within ChildServe's main campus. This site is specifically designed for children diagnosed with Autism, ages two to kindergarten age. There are three rooms that are used for programming. The children are in and out of the rooms for on-site occupation/speech therapy. The center has a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for the center's daily functions, within the ChildServe's process manual. Barb Williams is the Service Manager. Kara Pick is the Director, starting in this role in August of 2020. Kara has a Master's degree in Social Work and has worked at ChildServe as a lead teacher for over two years Kara meets qualifications for this role.

The center hours are 7:30 am to 5:30 pm M-Th and 7:30 am to 5:00 pm on 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/Activities: The center uses the STAR program for curriculum as well as providing services to meet individual goals for each child under each child's own individualized care plan. The center uses a computer application to communicate with parents. This program operates on a increased staff to child ratio based on the needs of the children attending. The room was in ratio and the staff were observed to be engaged and nurturing with the children. There was a variety of activities available in the classrooms for the children. The rooms are organized and set up specifically for the child's developmental requirements while attending.

Nutrition Practices: Food is prepared in a kitchen located in another childserve site and transported to the ADP, where it is served family-style by staff. The menus are crafted by corporate and are in a rotation in line with CACFP guidelines.

Health and safety: Medications are stored securely in the room and all staff are medication administration certified. There are backpacks with first aide kits in the rooms. The fire/tornado plans were posted and drills were documented having been completed monthly as required. Radon was tested under the 4.0 cutoff in 2022.

Playground: was a bit snow covered, enclosed with chain-link fencing.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Records: Information regarding mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and no-smoking signs were conspicuously posted as required. Six child files were reviewed with two files missing emergency doctor information, one missing emergency dentist information; employee files were reviewed and contained all the required information. This center has an established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center provides a unique child care opportunity for children with Autism. Each child is assigned an RN Care Coordinator who manages the child's Plan of Care. Staff receive specific training to assist them in providing comprehensive care to children being served at this center. Children are afforded large motor play on a daily basis through the use of the playground or gyms.

Each child attending this program receives individualized care; receiving speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. There is much collaboration between the departments and the children receive the different areas of therapy at the center. The children also receive one on one teaching time, using the Star curriculum, designed for children with Autism. The center sees great outcomes with the children and progress. The center is able to provide early intervention for the children to assist them in being ready for kindergarten. Some of the children are able to start kindergarten in regular classrooms with no IEP in place.

The center continues to provide a Behavioral Health program.

The center assists families with resources in the community.
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The center continues to have a higher ratio of staff to children than is required by licensing.

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 medical: 2
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: two files missing emergency medical doctor and one of those; missing emergency dental information.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff were observed actively engaged with the children and programming. The staff were nurturing and responsive to the children in their care.

Programming space for this program is set to move to an adjacent building; That space has been observed on this day also. An administrative change will be completed when the program's new space is in use.

Radon testing is required every two years. The last radon test was completed in November of 2022 and the levels fell below the cutoff of 4.0.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The center has an electric furnace and is not required to conduct annual furnace testing.

*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.