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

Name of Center: Tamarack Discovery School **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51928

Street: 14 S. Linn Street **City:** Iowa City Iowa **Zip** 52240 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Katie Christiansen **Phone Number:** 319-899-8835

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

Date(s) of Visit: 12-19-2023

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:** 10-26-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-22-2023

Comments : Does Comply.

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.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care X 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			12	48	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 12-22-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker arrived at Tamarack Discovery School on 12/19/2023. The center provides private school and care for preschool to school aged children. The center is open Monday-Friday from 7:00am to 5:30pm. The center has 36 children enrolled. The center is located inside of a commercial building. They utilize four classrooms, kitchen, and offices. The center is nonprofit and overseen by a board of directors. The center's fire inspection was completed on 8/22/2023.

The director is Katie Christiansen. She has a Master's Degree in PK-12 Principal and PK-12 Special Education Supervisor. She has a Bachelor's Degree in K-6 Elementary Classroom and K-8 Reading. She started in 8/2020.

This worker observed all programming space and reviewed the curriculum. The preschool program uses Jolly Phonics and Origins.

Nutritional practices were checked. The center provides snacks. Parents provide meals. The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center had medications stored appropriately. The center did practice appropriate hand washing procedures at required times.

The center completed radon testing as required. The center completed an annual fuel burning appliance inspection and had a carbon monoxide detector installed as required.

The center's outdoor play area was inspected.

The center does offer field trips for elementary school children. They have gone to Hickory Hill, Fossil Gorge, museums, library and Harvest Preserve.

The center's policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed. The center also had required postings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center's website is: https://www.tamarackschool.org/
-The center is a combination of private school and HHS licensed preschool/Before and After School Care.
-Classrooms are clean, nicely organized and welcoming to those who enter.
-The center offers a lot of outdoor time.
-The center's curriculum is play based and student lead.
-The center engages their community a lot. They have partnered with Bur Oaks, Iowa City Public Library, Johnson County Refuge, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Resilient and Sustainable Future for Iowa City.
-The center has access to a large playground. They also have access to The Center (large cafeteria, music room, and yoga studio).

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

The center was in full compliance on the date of my visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The following agencies are available to provide consultation, support, and educational opportunities:
CACFP: https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program
Child Care Resource and Referral: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
Early Childhood Iowa: https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
First Children's Finance: https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/
Healthy Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants
Iowa AEYC: http://www.iowaaeyc.org/
Iowa After School Alliance: https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/
Iowa State University: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/early-childhood
4c's of Johnson County: https://www.iowa4cs.com/

*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.