

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

Name of Center: Stepping Stones Preschool and Childcare **Enrollment:** 24 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46530

Street: 117 N Elm St **City:** Avoca **Iowa Zip** 51521 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: PO Box 532, Avoca, IA, 51521

Director's Name: Monica Fichter **Phone Number:** 712-307-6460

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** fichtermonica4@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-09-2019

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-16-2019

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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:	<i><u>Year-round</u></i>	<i><u>School-Year</u></i>	<i><u>Summer Only</u></i>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	3	3	7	3	16
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 02-01-2018 to 02-01-2020
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date: 01-15-2019

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Stepping Stones is located on the main street of Avoca, Iowa in the business district. The center provides child care and preschool services to children infant age to school age, Monday through Friday 7:15 am to 5:15 pm. Monica Fichter is the owner/director of the center. Monica provided in home child care for many years prior to opening her center. There are thirty six children enrolled. I met with Monica during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:

There are two program room areas.

Infant area (21'6" x 7'2" = 155.52 square feet, divided by 40' per child = 3 children)

The infant area opened in January 2017. There are two sinks in this area - one is for hand washing after diaper changing.

There is a changing table, cribs, and some equipment/toys in this area.

There were three children with one staff person, Kaytlin. The daily sheets looked good. Kaytlin was attentive to the needs of the children. One of the cribs had a small mat instead of a crib mattress. You must follow safe sleep practices and have a mattress that fits the crib for the child to sleep on. Discontinue using a mat in the crib immediately and replace with a mattress that fits the crib or discontinue using that crib.

Please have an approved sanitizing product in the infant area. If you are using the bleach/water please use the three bottle procedure - soap/water, water, bleach/water for sanitizing.

There was some confusion regarding sanitizing food surface areas and hard surface toys. Monica thought that since each child had their own high chair that the food surface tray didn't need to be sanitized. You must sanitize all food surface areas and hard surface toys.

Make sure your disinfecting and sanitizing products are EPA registered and that you are mixing according to the specific product label for sanitizing and disinfecting.

I am recommending consultation and training from your Child Care Resource and Referral worker, Shirley Ulrich regarding disinfecting, sanitizing and safe sleep requirements.

The main program area (children two and older) 25' x 9' = 225' and 15'7" x 15'3" = 240.21 = 465.21 square feet divided by 35' per child = 13 children. There were ten children and two staff, Monica and Kathy. The children were having fun playing and eating lunch. When a staff person is making lunch they are not considered to be in ratio.

Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were involved in programming, nurturing and having fun with the children.

The room has child size tables and chairs. There are activity centers. Toys are rotated on a frequent basis. There is a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys/equipment.

Mats are used for nap time.

Monica teaches preschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Creative Curriculum and Handwriting Without Tears curriculum are used. Monica develops the lesson plans and activities. I am recommending that you receive consultation from your Child Care Resource and Referral worker regarding your lesson plans, as I am recommending they

be more detailed. There are two sinks at the counter. There is one restroom with one toilet and two sinks. Diaper changing for two year olds is done in the bathroom. The child lays on their own towel for diaper changing and then the towel is placed back in their bathroom cubby/drawer and is laundered weekly, unless the towel is dirty/soiled then it is laundered at that time. This procedure isn't sanitary and may cause cross contamination - Discontinue this diaper changing procedure immediately. I am recommended the use of a mat and then the proper disinfecting procedures.

Nutrition:

The center provides a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. Monica plans the menus on a weekly basis. The kitchen has a refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and a crock pot. There are thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer. The kitchen counter was cluttered. Please clean the kitchen counters as this area is needed for sanitary and safe methods in food preparation.

The center isn't on the federal food program. Make sure you follow the CACFP food guidelines even if you aren't on the food program.

Health and Safety:

Proper medication management procedures are followed when children are prescribed medication.

The annual fuel burning inspection was done in March 2018. Annual fuel burning inspection will be due in March 2019.

Radon testing was done in April 2017 with a test score of 1.9 pCi/L. Radon testing is required every two years and will be due in April 2019.

The center has all of their emergency procedures.

Make sure your center has a carbon monoxide detector.

Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented.

Playground:

There is a fenced playground area in the back of the center. There is a cement area. Previously the center had two Little Tykes pieces of equipment. Padded mats are used for surfacing.

Transportation:

The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. Monica has a ten passenger van that is used for field trips. Children four years and older are taken on a variety of field trips during the summer. Walking field trips are also taken.

The school bus provides transportation services for school age children.

Administrative records:

There are three employees, each staff had their criminal record check. Please make sure you are following the current record check procedures - SING criminal record checks and federal record checks - fingerprinting. Kaytlin has worked at the center for about 1 year and Monica said she just recently sent in her federal record check. Previously the federal record check was required to be sent in within 30 days of a staff persons employment - this rule has changed and now the Federal record checks are sent in prior to a staff person beginning their employment. The staff person can begin employment after the federal record check has been sent in - you don't need to wait for the results. This is a new change that began in January 2019 and you should have received an email. Federal record checks are to be repeated every four years unless you are aware of a conviction then you would need to complete a new record check.

Criminal record checks are done prior to a staff beginning their employment and every two years thereafter, unless you are aware of a conviction then you would need to complete a record check prior to the two years. You need record checks on substitutes and also volunteers if they are considered to be in ratio or are supervising children. Please review your record check rules.

Please maintain staff file requirements - Please refer to your DHS handbook for their requirements.

Make sure all staff have completed the Essentials training and their annual required training.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Stepping Stones Preschool and Childcare is a wonderful resource for the Avoca, Iowa community.

Monica is very proud of her center.

Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they are nurturing, and involved in programming with the children.

New in 2018:

Monica applied for the Quality Rating System (QRS).

Enrollment has continued to grow.

Monica took the ECCERS and Color Me Healthy training and really enjoyed them and learned a lot.

New equipment and supplies i.e. blocks, pillows, car mat.

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

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age. When you are cooking lunch you aren't considered to be in ratio.

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.

There was some confusion regarding sanitizing food surface areas and hard surface toys. Monica thought that since each child had their own high chair that the food surface tray didn't need to be sanitized. You must sanitize all food surface areas and hard surface toys.

I am recommending consultation and training from your Child Care Resource and Referral worker, Shirley Ulrich regarding disinfecting, sanitizing and safe sleep requirements.

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.

Additional concerns: Diaper changing for two year olds is done in the bathroom. The child lays on their own towel for diaper changing and then the towel is placed back in their bathroom cubby/drawer and is laundered weekly, unless the towel is dirty/soiled then it is laundered at that time. This procedure isn't sanitary and may cause cross contamination - Discontinue this diaper changing procedure immediately. I am recommended the use of a mat and then the proper disinfecting procedures.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

One of the cribs had a small mat instead of a crib mattress. You must follow safe sleep practices and have a mattress that fits the crib for the child to sleep on. Discontinue using a mat in the crib immediately and replace with a mattress that fits the crib or discontinue using that crib.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 2-1-2018 to 2-1-2020.

Off year licensing visit 1-9-2019.

A referral has been made to Child Care Resource and Referral for consultation and training regarding sanitizing, disinfecting, safe sleep and lesson planning.

*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.