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

Name of Center: Dodger Preschool **Enrollment:** 40 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18039

Street: 1611 Williams Dr **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 1611 Williams Dr, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Kayla Takatsuka **Phone Number:** 515-955-6060

On-Site Supervisor(s): Justine Moore, Chloe Hamlow **E-Mail:** dodgerpreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-10-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 09-20-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-23-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Dodger Preschool on 03-10-23 where I met with center director Kayla Takatsuka. Kayla took over as the director and lead teacher of this program in 2018 and is well qualified for the position having a formal teaching license and prior experience, and has her master's degree in Literacy Education. There are two assistant teachers, Justin Moore, and Chloe Hamlow. Justine has been with the center for the past several years and assists with the 3 year old class. Chloe started with the program at the start of the 22-23 school year and assists with the 4 year old class. The program is located in the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Dodge but is operated separately from the church under its own board of directors. The program also participates in the 4 Year Old Preschool Grant under the Department of Education. The center offers preschool programming only and has 40 children enrolled in three sessions with two sessions for the 4 year old children, and one session for the 3 year old children. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and arrangement of the classrooms remains much the same as in prior reports. The program makes use of two classrooms that are connected by a short pass-through hallway where a toilet and sink are located. Both classrooms have secondary exits that provide direct access to the outdoors. It is noted that one of the exits in the group learning classroom is blocked by a bush and is not designated as an emergency exit. Both rooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. A small kitchenette area is located in one classroom with an additional sink and refrigerator but no cooking appliances. Both rooms were clean with no concerns noted due to maintenance. The primary classroom had a divider curtain that has been removed which increases the available space and improves the direct line of sight supervision of the children.

As noted there are two classrooms with one room primarily used for group learning which has tables where the children eat snacks and can engage in activities requiring a solid stable surface. The other classroom is divided into other activity centers that include dramatic play, science, math, arts and crafts, and a listening center. Each center was well stocked with a good variety of age appropriate materials that were in good repair. A copy of the planned curriculum and schedule is posted. The planned curriculum focus on the day of the visit was "Fair Ways To Play" building on social skills and interactions. While both the 3 and 4 year old classes followed the same curriculum focus the daily activities varied as needed to support the developmental levels of the children. Good interactions were observed with both teachers being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned curriculum. Good supervision was provided with one child having left the centers room without supervision to put a craft project in the child's bag to take home at the end of the day. Kayla did notice the child had left the room, redirected the child to rejoin the group, and reviewed the expectation that children need to tell a teacher if they need or want to leave the room for something.

Good health and safety practices were observed with the teachers reminding the children for hand washing and ensuring that they washed their hands as needed following restroom use, prior to meals, and other times they become soiled such as after blowing their nose. Medications are not routinely administered due to the limited hours of operation but policies are in place should it be necessary in the future. The center did have children with diagnosed allergies and had developed good response plans for each child. A first aid kit was available and contained a limited minimal supply of materials to address most common first aid needs and should be replenished. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting

for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children.

As noted the center has a small kitchenette area. The children take it in turn to provide the snack but the center does maintain a limited supply of items to supplement if necessary. Good food storage and handling practices were observe. A list of recommended food items is posted and sent home with parents and a calendar of items actually served is maintained. The provided snack on the day of the visit consisted of "Cheerios" and milk. The children engaged in family style service with the teachers assisting as needed, and providing supervision at the tables.

The center playground has a large open grassy area, paved riding track, swings, music centers, and a climbing structure. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing and while it could not be fully assessed due to winter freeze did appear to have sufficient depth of material that will need to be assessed later in the spring for the need to aerate or supplement the existing material. A segmented retaining wall structure that uses securing ground stakes is used to contain the pea gravel. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing that that had some missing and broken retaining clips used to secure the fence to the support posts. This does create an entrapment risk and these need to be replaced. Several large mature trees provide shade. In addition to the installed playground equipment the center also has toys and materials that are taken out for the children to play with.

All required notices and postings were present and in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents. All staff and child files were reviewed. All staff files were found to contain all required documentation. Seven child files were found to need a physical. All inspection certificates and logs were available and current with the exception of the Radon and Fuel Burning Appliances inspections. Kayla did note that the heating system in the classroom is electric. Prior reports identify that a new heating system was installed for the church in 2019 but no documentation was available that it had been inspected since its installation. All fuel burning appliances must be inspected annually, and furnaces should be inspected in the fall prior to the heating season. Even though the heating in the classroom is electric there could still be concerns for gas or carbon monoxide leaks from other appliances. The last Radon testing was also dated from 2019 and while the results were in the acceptable limit of 3.4 pCU/L renewed testing is required. It was noted that the center does have a mitigation system with continual monitor but it was unknown when the system was installed. For programs that have a mitigation system renewed testing is required within 2 years and if level continue to remain below the 4.0 pCU/L cutoff limit testing would then be renewed every 5 years. Given that it is unknown when the system was installed and given that the last results of 2019 were within acceptable limits the center does need to conduct renewed testing.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has continued to have a very strong curriculum that is focused on developing school readiness skills. The center began using the 2nd Step Curriculum which adds a social-emotional focus to the other curriculum programs that the center uses. During the visit Kayla was observed to continually focus on building learning skills with reviews of phonics sounds, number concepts, and asking the children questions to help them explore and think about their environment.

Kayla does an excellent job of implementing a positive support approach to behavior management with interacting in a very positive manner, reassuring the children, and helping them identify solutions.

The center did add a smart board during this past year to provide a new option for presenting lessons using media and audio-visual programming.

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

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: 7

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.
-- The last radon test results were expired. The center does have a mitigation system and needs to renew testing. If results are within acceptable limits the center can move to a renewal period of 5 years.

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.
-- Documentation of fuel burning appliances was not available on the day of the visit. While the heating system in the classroom is electric inspections are required for appliances in other areas of the building to ensure that there are no gas or

carbon monoxide leaks.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying 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 non-licensing 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.