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

Name of Center: Mustangs Child Care **Enrollment:** 156 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46117

Street: 223 E 2nd St **City:** Newell Iowa **Zip** 50568 **County:** Buena Vista

Mailing Address: 205 S Clark ST, Newell, IA, 50568

Director's Name: Molly Montag **Phone Number:** 712-272-4147

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jami Sievers **E-Mail:** petersonm@newell-fonda.k12.ia.us, eichelbergerd@newell-fonda.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 06-16-2023, 07-06-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-13-2022

Comments :

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: 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	6	17	20	13	56
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-17-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An announced annual visit was made to the Mustangs Child Care center on 06-16-23 where I met with the center director Molly Montage. Molly took over as the director of the program at the start of June 2023. Jami is an administrative assistant with the school that maintains the programs personnel files and other administrative records. The program makes use of a free standing building year round for the daycare programming and a commons area in the school during the school year for after school programming. The facilities are owned and overseen by the elementary school and provides daycare programming to infants through school age children. There are approximately 156 children enrolled in the program though not all attend at any given time and encompasses the open enrollment policy for the after school program. The program is served by 9 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The physical layout and design of the center and classrooms remain essentially the same as in prior reports. The daycare center is divided into 4 classroom areas with an infant room for children birth to 18 months, a toddler room for children 18-36 months, a preschool room, and a school age area located in a common dining area. The commons area of the school building used for after school programming is a large open space with several exits to both interior and exterior areas of the school. The center was observed to be clean with a few minor issues noted regarding maintenance but none that presented an immediate safety concern. Each room has direct secondary exits to the outdoors. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. The infant room does make use of evacuation cribs and items were being stored in/under the crib. As a reminder these can be used for sleeping infants but should otherwise be maintained so that they are clear of obstruction. Prior reports have noted that the exits for the toddler and preschool rooms open on the playground which is enclosed by fencing and a padlock had been placed on the gate. The padlock was removed during the time that the center is in operation given that it is considered part of an evacuation route. Bathrooms are located off the main commons area, and another bathroom is located just off the programming space of the preschool room. Changing stations are also present in the infant and toddler rooms. Sinks are available in each classroom to allow for hand washing. The toddler and preschool room have a large archway opening that connects the two rooms but a mobile fence and gate system provides for separation of the rooms. Windows along the exterior walls and in exit doors provide natural light and a view of the outdoors.

Each room is divided into activity centers through the use of shelves, furniture, and play structures which are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas. Each activity center had a good variety of toys and materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A television set was present in the school age area and this needs to be secured either using mechanical fasteners, a non-elastic strap, or some other method to prevent it from being a topple hazard. This has been identified as a concern in prior reports and if the unit cannot be secured it should be removed. Copies of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted in some classrooms but not all. Despite this it was obvious that each classroom was engaged in a planned curriculum. As examples the toddler room had a planned curriculum of Summer and Pineapples which was reflected by the toys, art, and activities in the room. The preschool room did not have a curriculum posted but the teacher does have a learning focus each week. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age for each classroom. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with the staff being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. This included teachers engaging in play activities, reading to the children, and attending to their needs with diaper changes or preparing breakfast. Good behavior management techniques were observed

with the teachers recognizing positive behaviors, redirecting children, and helping them with problem solving when they did have conflict with peers.

Good health and safety policies and procedures generally observed. I was not able to observe a diaper change during the time of the visit but the staff in the infant room was able to identify the proper procedures. Breakfast was served during the time of my visit and it was observed that children in the infant and toddler rooms did not have their hands washed prior to eating. A child in the preschool room did wash their hands but not in an effective manner as the child did not use soap. There were no children currently taking any prescription medications, and over the counter medications were properly labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Chemical cleaners and other items labeled as "Keep Out Of The Reach Of Children" were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to children. First aid kits were present and included materials necessary to address most common first aid needs but do need to be replenished to ensure items like large bone splints and bottled water are replaced as these were missing. In addition the center also maintains and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit. Safe sleep practices were followed in the infant room. One changing mat, and one crib mattress were observed to have tears in the waterproof cover and these need to be replaced.

Meals are prepared by the school during the school year, and during the summer the children attend the Summer Lunch Program. Meals are brought to the center in hot/cold holding containers. While the school also provides the snacks daily a limited supply of snack items is also maintained at the center and a couple of the items were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers as required. A copy of the planned menu was posted. Good food handling and service practices were observed during the visit. The teachers did sit at the tables and eat with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits. One issue that was noted is that the breakfast included waffles but the only utensil provided to the children was a plastic spoon which was not effective for the children to use to either cut or eat the waffles. This resulted in the staff tearing the waffles into pieces for the children, and the children eating with their hands.

The center has two on-site playground spaces with a green play space on the west side of the building which was reduced due to the construction of a new covered entry and sidewalks, and the other playground has a small preschool sized climbing structure, a riding merry-go-round, and paved areas where the children can play. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath those structures that are intended to elevate children. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. A retractable awning has been installed on the east side playground to provide shade, and limited shade is also available on the north side of the building from an overhang of the roof. Both playgrounds are fully enclosed by chain link fencing which was observed to be in good repair.

A review of administrative records found all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. A random selection of 16 child files were reviewed and of those 10 were found to not have documentation of having been reviewed for updates by the parents within the past year, and needed a renewed physical. I was unable to access the staff files on the day of my visit and a request for documentation to sent was made. That documentation was received on 07-06-23 and identified that 2 needed a current physical, 2 had not completed the training required within the first 90 days of employment, and 1 needed an FBI national criminal history check. All inspection logs and certificates were current and available with the exception of the Fire and Tornado drill logs, and the Playground Inspection logs. Both were not completed for the months of May, June, July of 2022, an May 2023. As a reminder these are required to be conducted and logged each month.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has hired a new director and Molly stated that one of her priorities has been working to organize the information of the center and she does plan to begin reviewing files.

The center has been working to update the equipment with one example having been to remove the tarps used under tables and replace them with floor protectors.

The center is also participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations is currently in the certification process of that program.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an

equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
Number not in compliance: 10

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: 10

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- Children's hands were not washed immediately prior to meal service.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Documentation not present for May, June, July 2023

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
-- Documentation not present for May, June, July 2023

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- The television in the school age room needs to be secured so that it is not a topple hazard. Changing pads and crib mattresses need to be replaced once the water proof cover has tears or wear that expose the foam core.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next 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.