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

Name of Center: Carousel Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18673

Street: 300 E Howard ST **City:** Manchester Iowa **Zip** 52057 **County:** Delaware

Mailing Address: PO Box 75, Manchester, IA, 52057

Director's Name: Vicki Ries **Phone Number:** 563-927-3900

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cindy Bradley **E-Mail:** vickiries@iowatelecom.net

Date(s) of Visit: 03-20-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 12-20-2024

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	19	18	18	26	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 04-04-2025

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Community Childcare of Manchester is a nonprofit organization established in 2007. Community Childcare of Manchester offers the following two licensed childcare programs in the community: Storyland Child Care and Carousel Child Care Center. Specifically, Carousel Child Care operates year round Monday through Friday from 5:45am to 6:15pm. The program serves children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 70.

Community Childcare of Manchester has a multi-site director that oversees both childcare programs. Vicki Ries has been the multi-site director since August, 2011. Ms. Ries has been with Community Childcare of Manchester for 29 years and continues to participate in much child development related training. Ms. Ries holds the National Administration Credential and is a member of the NAEYC. Cindy Bradley continues her work as assistant director, has many years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. Ms. Bradley will be celebrating her 24th year with the childcare in fall, 2025.

On 3/20/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Community Childcare of Manchester offers a variety of early learning programming and childcare to help meet the needs of children and families throughout the community. Carousel Child Care Center and Storyland Child Care continue to thrive in a predominantly rural area. During 2025, Community Childcare of Manchester will be celebrating 18 years of providing childcare within the community.

Community Childcare of Manchester sponsors the following website: https://www.communitychildcareofmanchester.com/.

Carousel Child Care Center has a history of participating in quality initiatives. The program has achieved IQ4K 3 and continues participation in CACFP. In 2013, Community Childcare of Manchester received a Distinguished Service Award.

The mission of Community Childcare of Manchester is "...to provide an affordable, safe, developmentally appropriate environment for children. Our focus is to provide a stimulating early care and educational experience, which promotes each child's social/emotional, physical and cognitive development..."

Community Childcare of Manchester is overseen by a board of directors. Ownership and management of Carousel Child Care Center has remained consistent. The program's management team (e.g. Ms. Ries, Ms. Bradley) is professional and organized, and in turn, daily operations run smoothly. Ms. Ries and Ms. Bradley have systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Ries has been a mentor to other child care programs and continues to be open to sharing ideas, joys, and challenges. Community Childcare of Manchester has received positive feedback related to participation in Delaware County Economic Development's "Real Life Academy" which has allowed young people an opportunity to become familiar with the childcare profession.

Carousel Child Care Center continues to retain a core team of seasoned employees who are also invested in the local community. Various staff throughout the classrooms reported celebrating 24 years, 20 years, 11 years, and 5 months of employment with Community Childcare of Manchester. Staff participate in annual professional growth hours that exceed minimum guidelines. In the program's vestibule area, there is an area to spotlight employees as well as "Employee of the Month" acknowledgment.

Infant room continues to support a “no shoe” policy, support safe sleep practices (including the use of sleep sacks), and provide infants with center-made pureed baby food. Center kitchen continues to be well-organized, well-maintained, and sanitary. The program's culinary expert Lori has been with Carousel Child Care Center for over 12 years. Ms. Lori discussed how she enjoys cooking for the children as well as how, when needed, she's also helped out with culinary needs at Storyland. Lori continues to seek input from classroom staff and children regarding menu items/substitutions served.

Community Childcare of Manchester has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Community Childcare of Manchester sites have successfully navigated through historic Delaware County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage. Specifically, Carousel Child Care Center was able to provide uninterrupted childcare to all Community Child Care of Manchester families even though the original Carousel site was destroyed by the July, 2010 flood.

Carousel Child Care Center continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, sponsors a private social media page, and supports family programming activities. A parent board and sign-in/out area has also been established inside the program's main entryway. Information on the parent board includes program reminders as well community resource information.

Building and grounds continue to be well maintained. A unique hallway mural greets persons upon entrance. Supply storage areas are routinely cleaned to maximize organization and ease of access to child material. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishment (e.g. artwork, Clever St. Patrick's Spring Wreaths! Milestone handprint art.) were nicely displayed in areas. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum continues to include teacher-inspired ideas, phonics work, math concepts, small and large gross motor, imaginative play experiences, and crafts. On-site guest speaker events and off-site walking field trips are also included in daily activity planning. Since the last review, security enhancement occurred. Future goals include applying for grant opportunities in effort to help replace some rugs and update furnishings.

Community Childcare of Manchester is invested in the community and continues to collaborate with numerous agencies including Iowa QPPS mentor program, Promise Jobs, local Childcare Task Force, Iowa Women's Foundation, local businesses, West Delaware Partnership, BDF Empowerment (Preschool Scholarships), local school districts, health professionals, CCR&R and Keystone AEA. The program has been a member of the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce since 2017. The program has a history of donating Board Books for newborns to the local hospital. Community Childcare of Manchester has received past grants from the Foundation for the Future of Delaware County and a grant from a partnership between Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Morgridge Family Foundation based in Colorado.

In 2019, Community Childcare of Manchester established an endowment fund to encourage, maintain, administer, and acknowledge gifts received from friends of Community Childcare of Manchester. Through an endowment fund, Community Childcare of Manchester can grow money through investments with a yearly payout that will be used for daily operational expenses, equipment, and future projects. Ms. Ries discussed how they have been able to increase endowment.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has supplies as well as policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning checklists and closing duty reminders are posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. The aroma of homemade chili from the kitchen was filling the center. Activities offered were many (e.g. infant cares, center play, individual crafts). Staff had infants engaged in a book-read story. In room 2, staff was assisting children in a craft making rainbows. In room 3, creating structures with Magna Tiles was happening. Then in room #4, there was book reading of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear What do you See?" and much music with movement and bean bags happening! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff engaged children in much meaningful discussion, used positive redirection when needed and encouraged the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Licensing supports replacing the worn rugs and furnishings.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.