

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

Name of Center: Mt. Pleasant Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 48 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51508

Street: 304 W. Washington St **City:** Mt. Pleasant **Iowa** **Zip** 52641 **County:** Henry

Mailing Address: 304 W Washington ST, Mount Pleasant, IA, 52641

Director's Name: Cairece Allen **Phone Number:** 319-348-1984

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kaela Bass **E-Mail:** mpchildcare9@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-08-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-02-2021

Comments : conducted by SFM Amy Fratzke due every 3 years

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: Year-round School-Year Summer Only

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	16	11	23	12	62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Date: 06-19-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Mount Pleasant ChildCare Center opened in July 2021. It is located on the edge of downtown Mt. Pleasant in a business/housing district. The center is housed in a one story former commercial building on a busy street in Mt. Pleasant. The Director originally hired for this position is no longer with the program. The second director hired for this program resigned and her last day was June 17th, 2022. At that time the center on-site Supervisor, Cairece Allen, was appointed as the interim Director until the Board of Directors is able to hire another Director. She was hired in August 2022 as the full time Director. Director Allen has been employed at the center since it's inception as staff and then On Site Supervisor. Director Allen holds a BA in Criminal Justice and over 70 hours of child care related professional development training. She has 9 years of experience in child care. Kaela Bass has been appointed on site supervisor. This facility offers full day child care. It is governed by a Board of Directors. The Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance supports this center and provides guidance.

Two unannounced licensing visits were made to the center in April 2024. All program areas were observed during the visits. Frequent email and phone consultation has occurred the past three years since the center opened.

Center Nutrition:

The center has a large kitchen. They participate in the CACFP program. Menus are available and meet requirements. Food storage met safe food storage guidelines. No expired food items were expired or stored on the floor. Each refrigeration and freezer unit contained thermometers. All opened food items or liquids were stored in sealed bags or containers. An OSS, or the Director should visit each classroom and monitor and/or trains staff on CACFP. Food allergies should be posted. Diet modification forms and allergy action plans are not present on all children with allergies. We discussed snacks require two components which was not being completed. The Director agreed to change this practice.

Center Health and Safety:

Primary care groups are implemented in each classroom. Ratio was met and maintained throughout the visit. Staff should know how many children they were supervising. A camera system is utilized. A technical referral was made to CCR&R regarding supervision issues in March 2022, but administration reported supervision had drastically improved for 3 months. Another technical referral was made to CCR&R again in July after reported concerns. Another supervision concern was reported in August 2022 and another in May 2023.

The program contains separate rooms for infants, toddler, twos, threes and fours. Restrooms are in a central location in the middle of the building. It contains 6 toilets. The center is in compliance with the rule of 1 restroom for every 15 children counted in capacity. Each center room has a capacity sign so staff know how many children can be present in each room at one time. The center contains a moderate sized kitchen and office.

Rooms may be modified/switched or repurposed to fit different ages/needs of children and center growth in the future. CCNC or CCR&R should be consulted in these matters as well as HHS.

Radon testing is up to date. It is required every 5 years. Testing should be conducted in the winter months when the ground is frozen. The center is compliant with UL approved plug in carbon monoxide detectors on opposite ends of the building. The center does contain fuel burning appliances. An approved fuel burning appliances inspection is due annually. An approved inspection was present. Tornado and fire drills were observed.

Emergency medication as well as regular medication had pharmacy labels intact. Storage and documentation for such met rule. First Aid kits are inaccessible to children and contain products sufficient to administer first aid. Kits are taken outdoors with classrooms. A child with asthma does not have a Health Care Plan on file. CCNC Krana has been working with the facility on a regular basis since (August 2022) to secure the necessary documentation so that staff know how to respond in a health emergency. CCNC Krana covered special health plans and allergy action plans in May 2023.

The restroom has ventilation. Capacity for restrooms 1:15, classroom space (35 square feet of useable floor space per child) and outdoor play are (75 square feet of useable floor space) are met. Capacity and ratio signs are posted in each room.

All rooms should implement safe supervision practices to ensure careful supervision of each child is achieved at all times. The center has a floater present when available to ensure ratio and supervision are being met at all times.

In May last year a newborn infant was being swaddled. This is not allowed. Coaching, instruction and services have been provided to the center on Safe Sleep regarding all matters of Safe Sleep. An infant was asleep in a seat during this visit. A Safe Sleep referral has been made to CCR&R as of 4/28/24.

Center Outdoor Play Area:

The center has an L shaped play area for older children on the side and back of the building. The center also has a separate play area for toddlers and infants on the side of the building. The Child Care Weather Watch is consulted when weather conditions are questionable for outdoor play. The outdoor play inspection should be conducted and documented monthly. A latch on the gate was reported to the center contractor in August as it will not shut properly. Staff are aware and will ensure children do not exit the area through the gate.

Center Field Trips/Transportation:

Transportation and field trips are not provided by the center.

Center Administration:

Child files are reviewed annually including physicals, immunization and annual updates including emergency contacts, medical and dental information, pick up and field trip authorizations.. Allergy Action plans will be sent home with parents of every child that had allergies marked on physicals. The Public Health nurse conducted an immunization audit and the center received 100%.

Staff files are reviewed annually including SING checks (every 2 years), fingerprints (every 4 years). Prior to staff starting on the floor fingerprints are obtained and sent off. A few staff do not have current fingerprints. During the interim period staff are able to get training hours and perform other duties in the center. Staff are mostly up to date on professional development hours, CPR/1st Aid training (all but 2), Mandatory Reporter training, physicals and Universal Precautions training. In an effort to keep updates current CCR&R and IDPH have been assisting the Director and OSS with ongoing tracking of requirements.

Discipline and behavior policies are clearly defined. The Director is currently working with CCR&R on editing some policies.

Curriculum or program structure developmentally appropriate and activities designed to the developmental level/needs of children served. Since inception curriculum has been an ongoing work, due to staff turnover and consistency. The center is meeting with CCR&R consistently and will continue to address this. They met on this topic in June. Creative Curriculum is utilized in each classroom. Lesson plans should be completed for the week ahead. A designated staff member should work with the staff on the lesson plans. CCR&R Consultant Jodi Norton has been providing consultation on this matter to the center the past year and prior to opening. The Director will ensure curriculum is implemented daily. This was also cited during the July visit but continued to be an issue in August. The Director indicated on 8/12/22 staff are following schedules and utilizing curriculum daily. The center has removed broken toys, etc to reduce clutter so they can focus on providing age appropriate curriculum. Jodi Norton visited again on 11/22/22 and helped staff with this process. She continues to do so in 2023 and 2024 citing improvements with curriculum implementation, schedules and routines.

HHS encouraged the center to have all staff take trainings prior to being in ratio in the rooms. The Director reports all staff get to job shadow prior to be in ratio in the rooms. The Director has an open door policy encouraging staff to approach her

with potential issues so they can be immediately addressed. A points system is in place for employees regarding following center policy and DHS rules. Clear leadership roles have been assigned and staff are now aware of the chain of command. The Director is present on a daily basis and takes an active role in the center. CCR&R and HHS sent the new Director informational videos on the IPOWER system on 6/21/22.

All required postings are present such as No Smoking signage, HHS Licensing Consultant contact information, the Center License, and Mandatory Reporter posting.

Administration trains each staff on the center Emergency Preparedness Plan annually. Staff sign and date acknowledgement of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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: 5

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.

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.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

***This is an administrative change noting the program has shown further improvement in consistently meeting licensing standards. Capacity will be returned to 62.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period. In addition, if a center is issued a license indicating it is fully in compliance with licensing requirements, but at a later date within the license period fails to be in compliance, the Department may reduce a license to a provisional status. Upon correction of the deficiencies and approval by the child care consultant, the provisional license may be upgraded to a full license.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. CCR&R Consultant Jodi Norton supports the increase in capacity. CCR&R Supervisor Jodi Norton agrees capacity should be increased at this time.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Toni Krana works with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Krana meets with the center regularly. She just visited the center in June 2024 and supports the increase in capacity.

The center administration meets with both Child Care Resource and Referral Supervisor Jodi Norton and Iowa HHS Child Care Nurse Consultant Toni Krana on a regular basis. She has also reached out to other area Directors for consultation and support. The program is requiring Passport and Supervision training for all staff. These actions are duly noted.

*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.