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

Name of Center: Cherokee Daycare **Enrollment:** 94 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29147

Street: 400 N Roosevelt **City:** Cherokee Iowa **Zip** 51012 **County:** Cherokee

Mailing Address: 400 N Roosevelt Ave, Cherokee, IA, 51012

Director's Name: Kathy Peterson **Phone Number:** 712-225-5728

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jessica Peterson **E-Mail:** CHdaycare@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-13-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-07-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-16-2021

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	38	32	30	25	125
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 09-14-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited the center on 09-13-23 and spoke with Kathy Peterson, director of the center. Kathy has several years experience working in childcare in Iowa and has been director since 01-31-21. Cherokee Childcare is located in a school building in Cherokee. The center has an infant room, one year old room, 2 year old room, 3year old room, 4/5 year old room and school age room. They have a separate lunch area in the building.. The center operates 5:00am to 6pm Monday- Friday and serves children infants to school age.

There are 94 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit only 44 children were present. All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

The center had received grant money to update their facility. The center made their kitchen larger with a range hood; all new flooring in the rooms, new sinks in the infant and one year old rooms; new camera system, updated the toddler and infant playgrounds. The remodeling is still in process and has taken time. They are almost done with the remodeling. They have the bathrooms left to be updated.

The center is still hiring new staff to handle ratio's, as Director is in ratio a lot the last several months. The program has hired a office manager to help with files/scheduling and staff trainings to not only get them up to date but to help maintain them. The center's children's files are out dates and need to be updated annually. Files has been lacking due to Director being in ratio a lot. The office manager will help as well as continue support from CCRR. Consultation was made with discussion of different strategies to get and keep files current. Reminder It is recommended that the Director should not be in ratio since capacity exceeds 50 to be able to address administrative duties.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Refrigerator is clean and food is kept at the appropriate temperature. Food storage practices were observed and items that are opened need to be sealed or put into a container and dated. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition and they participate in the CACFP food program. The Center provides lunch, breakfast, and snacks for the center. Kitchen had expanded their kitchen with grant money they received. They now have a hooded vent above the stove.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Hand hand washing procedures need to be done prior to lunch. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are done each month. Radon tests were competed, however, there were a couple of rooms that were high. The program has contact assistance to ensure that radon is lowered to appropriate levels. Center will need to keep consultant informed on the results. Annual furnace inspection was completed. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. A reminder for staff to keep cleaning products out of reach of children for

safety.

Center Playground
There are 3 fenced-in playground areas behind the building: one for younger children and one for the toddlers children. These two playgrounds have been updated with new climbing equipment and rubber mulch for surfacing. The border around these playgrounds had some pegs that were coming up and needs to be secured. They also have a playground for the PK and older children which has rubber tiles for surfacing. They have a sand box which sand has gotten onto the rubber tiles causing some areas to be slippery. Sandy needs to be swept off the rubber tiles as much as possible to prevent slipping. It is recommended to work with CCRR on options to keep off the playground surface. The playgrounds has climbing equipment and a slide.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
They use the school bus to and from school. Most of the time they do walking field trips.

Goals of the Center: To continue to work with staff on retention, work on IQ4K application which they are in the process. To incorporate a curriculum for staff. Complete remodeling of the buildings bathrooms.

Strengths of the Center: Staff have a good relationship with families and staff work as a team. Center has a good core group of staff. The Board has been supportive of the center. CCRR has actively been working with the new director and staff in licensing requirements.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center sends home to the parents a monthly newsletter.

QRS rating of 2 stars out of 5.

Child size furniture in all the rooms.

Display children's art work in the rooms.

Pictures of the children involved in various activities and field trips are displayed throughout the center.

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

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(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.

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.
Cleaning products need to be out of reach of children; pegs on the infant/toddler playground needs to be secured and personal items(blankets) need to be kept separate from each other.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center will email consultant by 10-31-23 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been completed. It is recommended that the Director continue to work with CCRR to assist with getting children's files up to date. It is also recommended to do a self - audit using the HHS Licensing standards checklist. Power points training regarding HHS childcare licensing and HHS binder was sent to director 09-14-23.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

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.