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

Name of Center: Des Moines Christian Early Education **Enrollment:** 157 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27736

Street: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 400 **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50323 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 100, Urbandale, IA, 50323

Director's Name: Heather Hagaman/Trisha Lux **Phone Number:** 515-252-2482

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cheryl Whitmore **E-Mail:** hhagaman@dmcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-17-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-06-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-06-2021

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

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: 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		40	108	122	270
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-30-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A unannounced full licensing visited was completed 11-17-23. Present were the directors and additional the head of academics for essential learning.

The Des Moines Christian Early Education Center has been in operation since 1980. This center is owned and operated by Des Moines Christian School. The center is located within the Des Moines Christian School building. The school added a new addition in 2017. The new addition is where the Early Education Center is now located, at the south side of the building. The school age programming uses the new performance hall as well as a separate school age room. There are eight enclosed rooms used for programming space. There is a secured entrance for parents to use. The center serves children from two years through school age.

The center offers full day for preschool and childcare as well as half day options. A half day option for three year old children is offered Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:15 am to 11:15 am. A half day option for four year old children is offered Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8:15 am to 11:15 am and a half day option for junior kindergarten children is offered Monday through Friday from 12:15 pm to 3:15 pm. The center offers full day programming for all ages during the summer months and provides programming for school age children during the school year when school is not in session, from 7:00 am - 5:30 pm. The center provides after school programming for school age children.

Heather Hagaman is the main director, starting in this position in June of 2022. Heather was the previous On-Site Supervisor. Heather has an Associate's degree in Business Administration and over twelve prior years of experience in preschool and daycare settings. Heather meets qualifications to be the director.

Trisha (Trish) Lux is the co-director, starting in this position in June of 2022. Trish has eight prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications to be the co-director.

Cheryl Whitmore is the On-site Supervisor, starting in this role in June of 2022. Cheryl has 15 prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications to be the On-site supervisor.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations: The center uses the Creative Curriculum with the gold standard for assessments and occupies seven classrooms.. The center is also faith based and incorporates this into the daily schedule. Rooms were in ratio and offer a plethora of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. Staff were observed leading group activities and were responsive/nurturing to the children. Structure was maintain in the classrooms. A curriculum director for the school has started and will be crafting more curriculum for the pre-school/center. Good Handwashing technique was observed. Staff were observed taking children in/out from recess and utilizing proper accounting for the children in their care. There are handwashing posters throughout the center. The application used to communicate with parents is Lion's den.

Nutrition practices: The center contracted with Hy-vee to cater Lunches. Menus of lunches and snacks are in-line with CACFP guidelines and are rotated. Lunches/snacks are served family-style in the classrooms by staff.

Health and safety: Medication is stored securely accessible only to staff. There are handwashing signs posted in the rooms; and first aid kits available in each room. Tornado and Fire emergency plans are posted and drills are documented as having been completed monthly as required. Radon was tested in 2021 and will need re-tested in 5 years (completed by the school). The HVAC was inspected 4/2023 and there is a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway. This center is very clean and nicely organized.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented as completed. The playground area is enclosed by chain link fencing. There are play structures and a shed that houses outside supplies/toys. Shade is provided by play structures. Surfacing is pour in place and cement. The playground was in good condition.

Transportation/Field trips: regular transportation is provided by parents; field trips--center utilizes school bus and driver. A field trip to the pumpkin patch is annual.

Administrative review: Posted were information on mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs. Six child files were reviewed and contained all required information; Four staff files were reviewed and contained all the necessary information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has well furnished classrooms with several stations set up in the classrooms.

There is very little turnover with staff and staff are very well educated and trained. Staff are very invested in the school and are caring and nurturing. The staff have received PBIS training which helps with the behaviors of children in the classrooms. The center is also now incorporating Conscience Discipline.

The center has many long term staff and the staff work well together and are a strong team.

The center has a very high retention rate for children going from the preschool program into the school program, this past school year 90% of the spots for Kindergarten came from this program. There is a wait list for admission.

Parents report being happy and satisfied with the center.

The center sends out monthly newsletters from the director and weekly newsletters from the teachers. The school/center has a website page as well as a Facebook page. The center has started using the school based app which assists in communication with parents.

The teachers try to meet weekly for 30 minutes for collaboration and teamwork.

The director has started conducting more coaching and observations of teachers in the classroom. During the day the director goes into the classroom for what is called King's Kids/along with chapel on Monday mornings.

The center has a strong partnership with the school.

The director has imbedded professional development training into a weekly staff meeting.

The center has a secure entrance.

The lead teachers have three hours of planning built into their schedule every Monday.

The preschool program collaborates with the Kindergarten teachers.

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

There were not aspects of operation found to fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center was observed to be nicely organized with ample centers/activities. Staff were nurturing for the children and

responsive to their needs while maintaining good structure in the classrooms.

*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.