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

Name of Center: Frontier Childcare **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24218

Street: 3021 78th ST **City:** Norway Iowa **Zip** 52318 **County:** Benton

Mailing Address: PO Box 299, Norway, IA, 52318

Director's Name: Shelly Huxford **Phone Number:** 319-227-7996

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sarah Sliter **E-Mail:** shelly.huxford@frontiercoop.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-03-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 07-13-2023

Comments : Compliance on 07/21/23

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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	26	12	38	36	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-18-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/03/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Frontier Childcare in Norway. I met with Shelly Huxford, the director. Ms. Huxford started with the center in 1993 and became the director in 2011. The program employs eighteen staff members in addition to Ms. Huxford.

The program operates out of a building adjacent to the Frontier Natural Products Co-op business. The program has been in operation since 1976. The program operates 7:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday and serves infants through school-aged children. The childcare center is only available to employees of Frontier Natural Products Co-op. There are currently 80 children enrolled.

The program operates out of six rooms: Infant 1 (6 weeks-12 months), Infant 2 (12 months until almost two), Toddler 1 (18 months and two-year-olds), Toddler 2 (two and three-year-olds), preschool (four-year-olds) and Day Camp (school-age children). Because of the increase enrollment the preschool children have a classroom in the gym and the Day Camp children are in the preschool room and a room in the gym. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for every room except the Day Camp room where artificial lighting is used. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects and the children's date of birth.

All rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art/crafts, dramatic play, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and Play-Doh. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities and allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Most materials inside the center were in good condition. There is a butterfly mat in the Infant 2 room that has several tears with exposed foam. This makes it unable to be sanitized. This should be removed or replaced. There is a blue vinyl chair in the Toddler 2 room that is torn and in the preschool room (where school age children are cared for this summer) the seat for the library bench is torn. These items should be repaired, replaced or removed.

The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. In the preschool room you need to either unplug the television when it is not in use or secure the electrical cord so the children do not have access to it.

There is a bathroom in the preschool room that has two toilets and one sink. There is a shared bathroom between the Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 rooms. This area has three toilets and three sinks. There are handwashing procedures posted in both locations. In addition to sinks in the bathrooms, there is a handwashing sinks in each of the rooms and handwashing procedures were posted. There are diaper changing tables in the Infant 1, Infant 2 and Toddler 1 rooms. Diaper changing procedures were posted. In the Infant 2 room you need to move the diaper changing procedures closer to the table. The Infant 1 and Infant 2 rooms also have additional sinks for food prep. The handwashing sink in the Infant 2 room gets very hot. At times it is too warm for the children to wash their hands. This should be investigated.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. All the rooms follow the same theme each week but each of

the teachers create their own lesson plans. The school age classroom was the only room who had a lesson plan. All rooms are required to develop lesson plans and have them available for review during licensing visits.

The program uses Pro Care to complete daily sheets for all the children in the program. Daily sheets must be completed for all children under the age of two-years-old. The parents can view the site throughout the day to see what the children are doing for activities and staff members are able to send them pictures.

Pro Care is used to communicate with all the parents in the center. Staff members complete newsletters in the app and incident/accident reports are completed in the app. Parents check their children in and out of the center using the app and Ms. Huxford uses the app for billing purposes.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in December 2023 and is only good for two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the dining room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/13/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Jessi Ballard is the cook. She has been with the program for fourteen years and the cook for the last five. Ms. Ballard prepares a new menu each month. Menus were available to review. The teachers choose what they want to have for afternoon snack in their class. Make sure each room is documenting what is served for snack and this is available for review during licensing visits. Ms. Huxford states the program is 100% natural and they serve all organic food. The children are involved in composting and recycling. They teach the children it is important to take care of the Earth.

Some of the children eat in their rooms and other children eat in the dining room. Ms. Ballard delivers the food to the classrooms already dished out for the children on plates. The children eat in shifts.

I observed the kitchen to be clean and organized. There is an industrial refrigerator, an industrial freezer and two upright freezers. Thermometers were present. The kitchen has an industrial dishwasher. Everything other than bottles from the infant room go through the dishwasher. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were snacks in the Infant 1 room that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container and be dated. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

There are refrigerators in the Infant 1 and Infant 2 rooms and thermometers were present. Parents provide the formula, baby food and cereal until the children begin eating table food. There is a lactation room for nursing mothers. Staff members wash the bottles in the classroom using the three-step method.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

I discussed or observed diaper changes with staff members and proper procedures are followed.

There was a phone in each of the classrooms. Several of the rooms were missing the posting with emergency numbers. Please go through each room and make sure the emergency numbers are posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by some of the main program doors and outdoor exits. The evacuation diagram must be posted near both doors in the Infant 2 room, near the classroom entrance in the Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 rooms and near the entrance to the gym for the preschool class.

A daily schedule was posted in each room except for the small room in the gym used by three year old children.

While I was present there were children being sent inside the center from the playground alone to get drinks. Staff members must always maintain visual supervision of the children. They cannot be sent in alone. A staff member may stand in the door so they can supervise the children on the playground and supervise the children walk to the bathroom.

There are three outdoor play areas and they are fenced in. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning in the area for the Infant 1 and Infant 2 rooms. The rubber tiles have several large gaps that are a tripping hazard for children and staff members. The center has received a grant and are looking at purchasing poured in place rubber. There is also a grassy area. The area has riding toys, a tunnel, basketball hoops and balls, rocking toys, small slides. Dramatic play equipment and a playhouse. There is a pergola shade shelter.

The second area is for the Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 rooms. There is a large grassy area. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There was a slide on the grass that has a fall height of greater than 18 inches so it needs to be moved onto the fall surfacing. There is a sandbox in the area that needs more sand. Trees provide shade.

The third area is for the preschool and school aged children. There is a large grassy area and trees provide the shade. There uses to be a tarp for shade but it was destroyed by a windstorm. Pea gravel is used for cushion surfacing under swings and a small piece of climbing equipment with a tunnel and slide. There is a sandbox in the area that needs more sand. There is also a small basketball court.

The program also has use of a gym for gross motor activities when they cannot make it outside.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members had great interaction with the children. They were actively engaged in play with the children. Child friendly, soothing music was playing in some of the rooms. Staff members were observed to be nurturing and attentive with the children. Staff members engaged the children in positive conversation and talked with them about sharing and taking turns. Staff members were singing to the children and reading to the children. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Huxford states the center is a bus stop for Benton Community Schools.

Ms. Huxford states they received a grant through HHS and they are looking at purchasing poured in place rubber for one of their playgrounds to replace the rubber tiles.

Ms. Huxford states they receive a lot of support from Frontier because they are on site with the business. She states she is not on her own and she has an entire company to work with to come up with solutions.

Ms. Huxford states a majority of her staff members have longevity.

Ms. Huxford states parents know the staff members and they have a family environment. She states the children want to be at the center even when their parents are not working. She states the staff members are there for the right reasons.

Ms. Huxford states they work with outside programs, such as CCR&R and CART (Childcare Alliance Response Team). The programs provide coaching and consultation.

Ms. Huxford states someone from Frontier comes to the center and is doing activities with the Day Camp children.

Ms. Huxford states the Day Camp children take field trips.

Ms. Huxford states the parents are on site and available to the center if necessary. The company subsidizes the daycare rates for the parents.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
While I was present there were children being sent inside the center from the playground alone to get drinks. Staff members must always maintain visual supervision of the children. They cannot be sent in alone. A staff member may stand in the door so they can supervise the children on the playground and supervise the children walk to the bathroom.

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.
Most materials inside the center were in good condition. There is a butterfly mat in the Infant 2 room that has several tears with exposed foam. This makes it unable to be sanitized. This should be removed or replaced. There is a blue vinyl chair in the Toddler 2 room that is torn and in the preschool room (where school age children are cared for this summer) the seat for the library bench is torn. These items should be repaired, replaced or removed.

109.11(5): Telephone: Working non-pay phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting.List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone.
here was a phone in each of the classrooms. Several of the rooms were missing the posting with emergency numbers. Please go through each room and make sure the emergency numbers are posted.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The school age classroom was the only room who had a lesson plan. All rooms are required to develop lesson plans and have them available for review during licensing visits.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.