

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

**Name of Center:** Storyland Child Care **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18196

**Street:** 613 Grant St **City:** Manchester Iowa **Zip** 52057 **County:** Delaware

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

**Director's Name:** Vicki Ries **Phone Number:** 563-927-9827

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Christie Holtz (assistant director) **E-Mail:** vickiries@iowatelecom.net

**Date(s) of Visit:** 09-21-2022

**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:** 06-19-2020

**Comments :**

**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:           | <u>Year-round</u> |         | <u>School-Year</u> | <u>Summer Only</u> |          |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants           | 2 Years | Preschool          | School-Age         | Capacity |
| General          | 28                | 16      | 20                 | 5                  | 69       |
| Summer           |                   |         |                    |                    | 0        |

**QRS Rating:** 4

| <b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b> |                                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| X                                  | <b>FULL</b> license from 10-01-2021 to 10-01-2023 |
|                                    | <b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from                   |
|                                    | <b>DENIAL</b> of initial application              |
|                                    | <b>SUSPENSION</b> of license                      |
|                                    | <b>REVOCATION</b> of license                      |

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 10-07-2022

### **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, Storyland 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 52.

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 over 27 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. Christie Holtz has been with Community Childcare of Manchester for over 23 years. Ms. Holtz continues her work as assistant director, has many years of experience working with children, and continue to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/21/2022, 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.

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

Storyland Child Care has a history of participating in quality initiatives. The program has achieved QRS 4 star and continues participation in CACFP.

The mission of Community Childcare of Manchester "...is dedicated to providing 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..."

Carousel Child Care Center and Storyland Child Care is overseen and supported by a board of directors.

Ownership and management of the program has remained consistent. The program's seasoned management team (Ms. Ries and Ms. Holtz) is professional and organized, and in turn, daily operations run smoothly. Ms. Ries and Ms. Holtz have systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. Supply storage areas (Classroom closets and kitchen pantry areas exceptionally well organized!) are routinely cleaned to maximize organization and ease of access to child material. 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. Ms. Ries has received positive feedback from participating in the Delaware

County Economic Development's "Real Life Academy" which has allowed young people an opportunity to become familiar with the childcare profession.

Storyland Child Care continues to retain an experienced core team of employees. At least 4 staff have been employed at this site for over 20 years! Staff reported celebrating 23 years, 22 years, 20 years, and 19 years. Congratulations on the years of service to children and early learning! One particular staff discussed how a recently adopted child has continued to flourish at their childcare. The program acknowledges new staff with a welcome note at the parent sign-in/sign-out kiosk and has an area for an "Employee Spotlight". Ms. Ries discussed being proud of their team of employees who have a strong work ethic, are willing to help out in various capacities as needed, and whom embrace the childcare profession. During the monitoring visit, several staff talked favorably about their work with children and their employment with Community Childcare of Manchester.

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 Barb G has been with Storyland Child Care Center for over 5 years. Barb G has prior kitchen experience and has obtained a ServSafe Certificate. She is passionate about her work in the kitchen and supports 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 several historic Delaware County flooding events as well as the 2019 pandemic.

Storyland Child Care 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, supports family programming activities and supports family programming activities. Information on the parent board includes program reminders as well community resource information. Ms. Ries discussed the positive feedback the program has received, the continued steady enrollment and how they are working through the program's wait list.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Ms. Ries discussed future goals related to floor and countertop replacement as well as outdoor playground cushion surfacing updates. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. 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 field trips (many walking) are also included in daily activity planning. Communication between children and staff is done verbally, with picture cues, and through sign language.

Community Childcare of Manchester is invested in the community and continues to collaborate with numerous agencies including Iowa QPPS mentor program, local Head Start, Promise Jobs, Community Services, BDF Empowerment (Preschool Scholarships), local school districts (e.g. some transportation assistance), health professionals (e.g. participant in immunization review), and Keystone AEA. Community Childcare of Manchester has been a member of the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce since 2017. The program has a history of donating board books to local hospital newborns. Community Childcare of Manchester received a past grant from the Foundation for the Future of Delaware County. Community Childcare of Manchester also received a grant from a partnership between Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Morgridge Family Foundation based in Colorado, to "expand and empower child care providers" in a total of six Iowa counties in which the community foundation hosts local affiliate foundations, and can be used in response to challenges such as needing additional cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment; lost revenue due to closures; finding and retaining staff; and decreased enrollment.

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.

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. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. During the monitoring visit, staff were observed cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting at necessary and appropriate times. Routine cleaning checklists are posted in various areas throughout the childcare building which support their practices.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Infant cares were observed. Areas of study included "fall". Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encourage innovative play. Activities throughout the classrooms were many (e.g. book reading "When

the Leaf Blew In" and "Fall", squirrel coloring, outdoor large gross motor play). Circle time in the 2-year-old room included morning greeting song with additional finger plays (e.g. Itsy Bitsy Spider, Bumble Bee, I'm a Little Teapot). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their center 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 were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. 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:**

The program's license remains in full status. 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.