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

Name of Center: Shooting Star Childcare **Enrollment:** 85 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52155

Street: 403 N Grant AVE **City:** Elkhart Iowa **Zip** 50073 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 403 N Grant AVE, Elkhart, IA, 50073

Director's Name: Mary Collins **Phone Number:** 515-367-0027

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** patricia@shootingstarchildcareia.com
Mary@shootingstarchildcareia.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-22-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-20-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-19-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are required at least every three years.

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 X Other 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	24	48	48	30	150
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: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 08-05-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 7-22-24. Director, Patricia Moody was present for the entire visit.

Shooting Star Childcare obtained permission to open 5/8/23. They provide traditional childcare along with before/after school child care for approximately 51 children Monday through Friday 6:30 AM until 6:00 PM. The center is a partnership between Shane & Mandy Torres with Patricia Moody. The building (which is solely occupied by the center) is new construction, specifically built to accommodate the needs of a child care center. Patricia Moody will be stepping down as director; Mary Collins will be Director but was not present for this visit. Mary has education and experience that exceed requirements. Mary is working to update certifications and background checks as they pertain to Iowa.

All areas of the program were observed to include observations of rooms/activities, nutritional practices, health and safety, playground, transportation and administrative record review.

Room observations/activities: Each room was observed from age infant to school-age rooms. The rooms are nicely organized and very clean. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities in all rooms. Staff were observed to be actively engaged with the children; children being content. Handwashing posters were present and good hand washing technique was observed. Staff maintained good structure in the rooms and responded in consistently nurturing manner with the children.

Nutrition practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and did have a dedicated Kitchen manager that prepared meals/snacks; this position is open and is kitchen duties completed by now-previous Director Patricia Moody.. The center provides AM/PM Snack and lunch. There is five week menu rotation that is in-line with CACFP guidelines. This menu is posted on the parent application. Postings of allergies of some children are in the kitchen (in a manner that maintains confidentiality but also reminds staff) and emergency steps in needed in case of reaction. This kitchen was fully stocked with needed food and appliances for from-scratch meals as well.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored securely. Several staff have attained medication administration certifications The director indicated Radon would be tested and results sent as a year has passed from this center having obtained permission to open. This center has a good number of restrooms easily accessible to staff and children. They were clean and stock with necessary toiletries. This center is very clean and organized, providing a variety of centers in each room and different from age group.

Center Playground: This center has a playground area that is encompassed with chain link fencing, and is divided by ages with a variety of new outdoor structures, including water play. The safety surface below the structures is pour in place surfacing. There is green space and ample shade. The playground continues with construction.

Transportation/field trips: The center has access to passenger van that is maintained professionally. Before/After School transportation is provided by the local school. The center has provided several opportunities for field trips to include city park , a creamery and state parks. The center uses special shirts when on outings to help recognize the group.

Administrative Review: The center has conspicuously posted information regarding mandatory reporter, handbook availability, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado exit plan and non-smoking signs. Five child files were reviewed. There was one file missing dentist information. Four staff files were reviewed. There needed to be a signed employee-substitute-volunteer statement signed and the director had employees complete this in just a few days; so they are now on file; There was one staff that needed to update mandatory reporter training. This center has a unique play-based curriculum that allows for tailoring to children's specific needs. The policy and procedures are readily available on-line as this center has a website.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center is located in a relatively rural area and provides needed resources to this community.

This center director has a lot of experience with a variety of populations to assist with providing staff with training/examples of creating and maintaining structure in their classrooms.

This center has a secure entrance.

The building that houses the center was designed specifically for this purpose and is designed in such a manner to diminish obstacles to line-of-site for staff and children.

This center has a muli-purpose room that enhances opportunities for different activities at the center when there is inclement weather.

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: 1

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. A safety inspection check list/form was sent to the center for use in monthly checks.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted. The -now-previous director indicated testing would be completed ASAP as required.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due as the center has been open for over one year. Discussion took place with Patricia Moody that she would be sending test kits for Radon asap.

While the center is not on a food program; menus follow CACFP guidelines.

This center was observed to be very clean and organized, offered a variety of indoor/outdoor activities for the various ages/developmental stages.

Staff in this center were consistently observed interacting with the children responding in a nurturing manner.

*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.