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

Name of Center: Wonder Years Academy **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27725

Street: 3838 Martin Luther King Jr PKW **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3838 Martin Luther King Jr PKW, Des Moines, IA, 50310

Director's Name: Laura Trainer **Phone Number:** 515-255-6184

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jill Heck (pending) **E-Mail:** laura_trainer@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-25-2024

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:** 02-13-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-06-2023

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	16	12	21	13	62
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 03-25-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 3/25/24. The director was present during the visit, but was in the kitchen cooking the majority of the time while the visit took place.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation (again, only briefly this year and not entirely because of thunderstorms at the time of the visit), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Wonder Years Academy is a center located in Des Moines, IA. The center is affiliated with United Way as well as Drake Head Start and is overseen by a Board. The center serves children six weeks in age to 11 years in age throughout the year. There are five classrooms. The Creative Learning Curriculum is used by the center for lesson planning which also incorporates ELAP. Laura Trainer has been the director at this center since 1992 and meets the qualifications for her position.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, having a diaper changed, being held, washing hands, and engaged in free-choice play in the other four classrooms. Children were observed doing arts and crafts, playing with manipulative toys as well as with blocks and dramatic play toys.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is affiliated with United Way as well as Drake Head Start and Early Head Start. The center has a number of community partnerships (local church, food pantry, Hy-Vee, book buddies, etc).

The center participates in ITERS/ECERS and the food program (CACFP). The center is in the process of transitioning to IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The director and several staff members have worked at the center for a number of years. There are a lot of tenured staff who have been with the center for at least a year.

The center uses the Pro-Care system for parents signing their children into/out of the center as well as for staff to sign in/out.

There is a secure entrance.

There is a safety and health board for parents to view and obtain health and safety tips.

Bi-monthly staff meetings are held. Individual classroom meetings are also held. In addition, the director has regular meetings throughout the year with other United Way center directors.

The center has an office manager.

Enrollment remains steady.

The director is highly organized.

Staff questioned continue to have a good working relationship with each other.

The center has a website.

All staff are or have completed PBIS training.

Within the past year, shade structures have been installed that are put up during the late spring, summer, and fall months. This provides additional shade.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Information lacking: 2 for dental. All children enrolled, regardless of age, need to have listed a doctor and a dentist. The information should include the names, addresses, and phone numbers.

109.10(15)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed.
In the toddler classroom, the one exit was somewhat obstructed with equipment.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 2/8/22 - 2/15/22, 12/20/21 - 12/27/21, and 10/2021 - 1/2022. Radon can now be tested for every five years. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was completed on 10/27/23.

The center has a van they use for transportation on field trips. Regular maintenance is performed on the van.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit as was Brightwheel and Playground. The center currently uses Pro-Care.

It was noted that the center is currently advertising for a new full-time cook.

Jill Heck is the pending on-site supervisor. It appears she will meet requirements based on her BA degree, past experience, and professional development training. She will have to request this role in I-Power.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.