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

Name of Center: Wee Soar Daycare and Preschool **Enrollment:** 54 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22190

Street: 509 N Iowa Ave **City:** Nora Springs Iowa **Zip** 50458 **County:** Floyd

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, Nora Springs, IA, 50458

Director's Name: Lori Jost **Phone Number:** 641-749-5301

On-Site Supervisor(s): Marti Steele (lead PS), Clair Walkner (lead DC) **E-Mail:** ljost@centralsprings.net

Date(s) of Visit: 10-07-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-26-2022

Comments :

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.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			45	36	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-24-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Wee Soar Daycare and Preschool program on 10-07-24 where I met with lead teachers Clair Walker and Marti Steele as the center director Lori Jost was not in. The program is located in the elementary school in Nora Springs and occupies several classrooms. Lori has been with the center since 1998 and is well qualified for the position based on her education, experience, and training. The program provides preschool, wrap around daycare, and before & after school programming to children that are preschool age and older during the school year. The preschool operates in two sessions with one in the morning, and one in the afternoon. There are currently 54 children enrolled in the program between the two classes. The daycare has 25 children enrolled in the program though not all attending at any given time with the numbers varying due to the before and after school program being open to all students who can attend on a drop in basis. There are currently 29 children enrolled in the formal preschool with 16 in the morning and 13 in the afternoon with each class having a mix of 3 and 4 year old children. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of program and classrooms remains the same as identified in the past. The program makes use of 4 classrooms with two for the pre-school, and separate classrooms for the daycare, and the before and after school program. The preschool rooms are connected by an intervening corridor space with cubbies for coats, and which also has a direct exit to the exterior of the building. One room is used for primary programming, and the other for 1:1 individualized skill development activities and office space. The daycare and after school rooms have a connecting doorway between the rooms. The afterschool programming room has several larger tables and is used for snack and meal service for all of the classes. Each room has a standard classroom design with a large open space that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns due to maintenance. Each room has multiple exits from the room including exits that provide direct access to the outdoors, or other interior hallways. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. There is a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Sinks are located in the rooms to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located just off the programming space for the afterschool room, and just off the main hallway for the other classrooms. The arrangement of each room is such that there are no blind areas.

The toys and materials in the classrooms were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of children present. The preschool room was observed to have more activity center options than either the daycare or after school classroom. The preschool had an established curriculum with a general learning focus theme and then also has specific learning concepts that are presented each week. The identified focus theme on the day of the visit was Trees. The daycare and afterschool program mirrors the preschool theme as a way to provide support for that program. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children and presenting the planned curriculum. There was only 1 child attending the daycare program and the result was that much of the interactions were child interest focused. The teacher did continue to have a learning focus such as during one activity where the child was using ink stamps and the teacher using letter sheets to have the child stamp specific letters. In the preschool classroom the teachers moved through the daily schedule having periods of center play, large group learning, and small group learning. Good behavior management techniques were observed during the visit with the teachers providing guidance and suggestions to the children, redirecting behavior as needed, and recognizing positive behaviors the children were engaged in.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of the visit. While the school custodial staff does the majority of the deep cleaning at the end of the day the teachers and staff do clean as needed during the day. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. First aid kits are kept in the classrooms and contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The program also has access to the school nurse for addressing issues such as medication administration and responding to more serious health concerns if needed. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers directing the children to wash their hands before eating, after restroom use, and other times they became soiled. During the visit one child was observed to have their hands in their pants and one of the teachers did take the child to the restroom to see if they needed to use those facilities and to wash the child's hands.

Meals are prepared by the school and served in the before and after school room. A limited supply of snack items is also maintained in the classroom with either single serving pantry stored items, or refrigerated items. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. The teachers do wear food service gloves when handling food and food service items. The teachers do provide supervision at the tables when the children are eating.

The program makes use of the school playground which has a preschool climbing structure and other activity centers. The pea gravel used for fall surfacing had been aerated since the time of the last visit to ensure a good depth of loose material. The playground is fenced and the issues identified in the prior report continue to be a concern with several of the retaining clips used to hold the fence to support posts broken or missing. In addition there were areas where the space between the bottom of the fence and the ground was measured to be as much as five and a half inches. Both of these conditions create a high risk for entrapment and need to be corrected. A shed is present on the playground to store additional play items. Shade is provided by a large mature tree. The program does have access to other areas including a large open grassy area where the children can play.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible to parents and visitors. A random sample of child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Staff files and inspection logs and certificates were not available on the day of my visit but Lori was able to provide scanned information via e-mail at a later date. The scanned information did note that all SING background checks had been updated 08-28-24. Two files were identified that needed an updated annual physical, and 3 had not completed the required training within the first 90 days. Evacuation drill, and playground inspection logs were current and available. Documentation of Radon testing was not provided. While the program is located in a school building radon testing is still required given that the program does serve preschool age children in the wrap around daycare program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This has continued to be very stable program with several staff having been with the center for a number of years, and with regard to enrollment of the children. This allows the staff to develop strong relationships with the children, attend and acquire more training, and for families to be familiar with the program.

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

109.7(3): During their first three months of employment, all staff shall receive the following training:Two hours of Iowa’s training for mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the department.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 4

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 4

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.
-- The enclosing fence of the playground area was observed to have several retention clips missing, and gapping between the ground and the bottom of the fence which create substantial risks for entrapment. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED. The playground space shall not be used until such time that those issues are corrected.

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
-- Documentation not provided NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.