Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Science Center Of Iowa Preschool

Provider No.: 27773

Address: 401 W MLK JR PKWY, Des Moines, IA, 50309

County: Polk

Director's Name: Zach Riggins

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5153218899

E-Mail: zach.riggins@sciowa.org

HHS Visit Date: 12/11/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/25/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: NAEYC

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			120		120
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The Science Center of Iowa Preschool has been in operation since 2005. The preschool has it's own entrance, which is secured. Each classroom is also locked. Zach Riggins is the director. Zach has a Masters degree in Elementary Education. He's been employed at the center since 2016.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. The preschool has six classrooms: Curiosity, Discovery, Inquiry, Exploration, Imagination and Wonder. There is also a multipurpose classroom that is used for large motor play activities. Children's coats and backpacks are kept on hooks and cubbies in the hallway. Each classroom has a schedule and lesson plan. Classrooms are well supplied with developmentally appropriate furnishings, toys and learning supplies. Each classrooms has labeled interest centers. Children's art projects are displayed in classrooms and hallways.

Zach Riggins and Jeni Warwick assisted with today's visit. Six classes were in session today. Children were observed in classrooms. Curiosity (4's) had seventeen children present. Discovery (3's) had fifteen children in attendance. Inquiry (4's) had eighteen children present. Exploration (3's) had fifteen children present. Imagination had sixteen children in attendance. Discovery (3's) had fifteen children present. All classrooms have two teachers. Children were observed during snack time, child directed play activities, rest time and transition times. Staff were providing support and assistance as needed. Interactions between the children and staff were observed to be appropriate throughout the visit.

The center serves morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The center has a contract with the Science Center cafeteria for meals. Menus reflect CACFP requirements are followed. Afternoon snack today was pretzels, carrots and water.

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The center's playground has fencing. The playground has some climbing structures with surfacing. There are concrete areas for riding toys. The center completes monthly playground checks.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has their NAEYC accreditation which is an achievement obtained by only a small percentage of child care programs in the nation. This is a reflection of the center's commitment in providing a quality early educational program for young children. The classrooms are well supplied with age appropriate learning materials and toys.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Some staff need updated First Aid/CPR training. Zach is looking into getting all staff current, including ensuring his own trainer certification is current.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

Date: 12/21/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant

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Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.