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

Name of Center: Vet Med Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16873

Street: 1520 Christensen Dr **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50011 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 1520 Christensen Dr, Ames, IA, 50011

Director's Name: Angela Allen **Phone Number:** 515-294-2273

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Hunt **E-Mail:** ucci@brighthorizons.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-12-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-18-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due 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 X NAEYC NSACA 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	12	18	22	34	86
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-16-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A unannounced full-licensing visit was completed on 9/12/23. Director, Angela Adams, was present through the entire visit. Assistant Director Ashley Hunt was present for some of the visit also.

This center is on the campus of Iowa State University Veterinarian Medicine and is operated by the Bright Horizons Corporation, opening in 1997. The center has sole-occupancy of the single-story structure that was built specifically to be used as a child care center. Sticks furniture and art gallery provided art throughout the center, which adds a unique visual touch to the center. Angela Adams has been the director since November of 2013, and had previously been an assistant director at another Bright Horizon center. Ashley Hunt started as the assistant director in August of 2022. Ashley has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education Leadership. Both Angela and Ashley meet the qualifications for their positions. Ashley also carries the title of Health and Safety Director at the center.

This center offers traditional child care to ISU students first, followed by ISU faculty and staff. This center is not open to the community for child care. There is always a waiting list for families who wish to use this center. The hours of operation are 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, offering care for infants up through school age children; usually up to age 6+ (children who will enter Kindergarten).

All areas of the program were observed on 9/12/23. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room Observation/Activities: The center uses the World at Their Fingertips Curriculum, which is based on the Creative curriculum and Montessori components; and the "My Bright Day" application to communicate with parents. The center also uses a primary care giving concept; in which a child is assigned to a certain staff member in the classroom, however this is not exclusive to this one staff member. There are four rooms used for the program, plus an open area they call the big room, or movement matters. The rooms were observed in Ratio. The staff and children were observed to freely interact with on another. Staff did provide a structure to the classrooms and children appeared content. There are kitchenettes between some classrooms, secured by a pony-wall to limited unsupervised access to the by the children. There is also ready access to restrooms to the children in their classrooms. The rooms were very organized, offering a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys/activities. The classrooms were consistently set up to ensure good supervision is possible with little obstruction.

Nutritional practices: Beginning in January 2023, the on-site kitchen was put in use to provide the daily snacks and meals. There is a new 3-part sink and new dishwasher. There is now a dedicated staff for meal preparation. The menus rotate and are in line with CACFP guidelines; this center does not participate in the food program. The kitchen was organized and tidy. Food storage was organized and intact per expectations. The meals are prepared in the kitchen and served family style by staff in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: Medication at this center is stored securely if present. Staff were observed to model good handwashing

techniques while ensuring the children also utilized good handwashing techniques. The center has several first aid kits accessible around the building. Emergency plans for tornado and fire are posted as required. Tornado and fire drills were documented as completed monthly. Radon has been test in December of 2021 and will be repeated again Dec 2023. Testing in 12/2021 indicated levels being below the threshold at <4.0. The center has a new HVAC system and is otherwise checked annually. The director indicated that there is a budget to update surfaces like counters and such in the building, some surfaces already having been updated. The building was observed to be in good condition and to be very clean.

Playground: This center has a large enclosed playground divided by ages of the children which offers natural surfacing (center has new sod laid this year), natural shading, along with unique natural areas set up with paths and bridges for the children to have outdoor play. The playground was observed to be maintained well and the children appeared to enjoy the green, outdoor space.

Transportation/Field trips: no transportation is provided at this time.

Administrative Review: The center has posted information regarding Mandatory reporter, access/availability of handbooks, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking signs. There were eight child files review and five employee files reviewed. All files reviewed had the required, up-to-date information. The files were very organized and easily accessible.

The center has three separate playground areas, separated by the age of the children. The playground has a natural environment concept and is shaded by many mature trees.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has their NAEYC accreditation. This is a nationally recognized program and only a small percentage of child care centers are able to meet the standards and requirements established by NAEYC.

The staff at the center are well-educated and continue work well together as a team. All full time staff have a degree or are working toward a degree or CDA through Bright Horizons. Bright Horizons pays for staff to obtain their CDA, AA or Bachelor's degree.

The center looks at assessment criteria and has lesson plans for children toward meeting these criteria. The center pulls from different strengths to meet the emotional and developmental needs of the children.

The center receives strong support from the Bright Horizons Corporation.

The center continues to offer a family atmosphere and is family oriented. The center works toward building relationships with families. The parents of children who attend this center value the center and appreciate the center.

The center has longevity of staff with 5+ years.

The center has a strong, working relationship with the University. The University, who owns the building, is investing in the program and in the building. The center received new cabinet doors in every classroom and soon every classroom will have new countertops. The center will have new flooring installed in the new future and will be getting new concrete and drainage and landscaping on the outdoor playground area.

The center is doing the WAGES program for staff.

Bright Horizons does a yearly awards of excellency for staff across the states where they have centers.

The staff have shown flexibility and perseverance and have quality interactions with the children.

The administrative team works hard to show staff they are appreciated and valued. They provide snacks, coffee, little gifts, lunches and let the staff complete Amazon wish lists for their classrooms. They send out written thank you letters to staff. The center did teacher appreciation for a month in May.

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

There were not aspects of the operation that were observed to fall below standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in December of 2021 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The center was very organized and staff were consistently observed interacting with the children; and for the children to be content.

*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.