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

Name of Center: Precious Moments Montessori Preschool LLC **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48778

Street: 2957 Center Point Rd NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 2957 Center Point RD NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Diana Pagan **Phone Number:** 845-325-9125

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cristin Stansbury **E-Mail:** diana@supergleam.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-31-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-24-2023

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.) 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		40	50	10	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-07-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Precious Moments Montessori Preschool (PMMP) - 48778 commenced operations in May 2017 after an ownership and name change (formerly Child's Discovery Montessori PS & DC - 23880). PMMP offers full-time and part-time programming for children age 2-years-old through preschool-age. Current enrollment is 52.

Founding owner and director of PMMP is Diana Pagan. Ms. Pagan has a BA degree in history, several years of experience working (e.g. STEAM gardening club) with children, and completed much child development related training. Cristin Stansbury has been the program's primary on-site supervisor since November, 2017. Ms. Stansbury has an associate degree in early childhood education, experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 5/31/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

PMMP is a well established program offering many different early learning opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a predominantly urban community. The program accepts a variety of funding sources. During 2024, this childcare will be celebrating their 7th year of operations. Congratulations!

PMMP has the following website for families and persons in the community to learn more about the program: https://preciousmomentsmontessori.com/. PMMP also sponsors a Blog and private social media page.

PMMP has a history of participating in quality initiatives including CACFP and IQ4K. Ms. Pagan talked about working hard to provide a quality program within the community.

Management and ownership of the program has remained consistent since opening over 7 years ago. This includes owner/director Ms. Pagan and primary on-site supervisor Ms. Stansbury. Management is organized, and in turn, the program operates smoothly. PMMP has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management is familiar with licensing rules as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Since the last monitoring visit and through the 2017 ownership change, the program has retained seasoned staff. Staff reported celebrating 32 years, 15 years, and 3 years of employment with this program. Since the last review, the program obtained a new chef. Ms. Pagan discussed how staff appreciation and gratitude are part of the program's successful operations. Notes of staff thanks and appreciation was observed on-site.

Ms. Pagan and her family are local entrepreneurs invested in childcare and the community. In addition to PMMP, they own and operate a cleaning service. Ms. Pagan reported the cleaning service conducts a regular PMMP/center deep clean. Ms.

Pagan reported carpets are deep cleaned at least monthly.

PMMP has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. PMMP successfully navigated through the 2019 Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

PMMP continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Pagan discussed being proud of her consistent team of employees as well as continued enrollment growth.

Building and grounds are maintained. Ms. Pagan does have a family maintenance person assisting with building projects. Since the last review, an outdoor wooden seat was replaced. Ms. Pagan talked about future goals including repainting a few areas within the building. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed in various areas of the program space. PMMP curriculum includes a combination of learning strategies which promote kindergarten readiness and incorporate phonics work, writing, counting experiences, reading, and letter "show-and-tell". Curriculum provides enrichments in a variety of disciplines including garden club with farm-to-table experiences, art studio program, yoga, show choir program, community involvement (e.g. notes to veterans) and summer dance experiences. Each year, Ms. Pagan shares with licensing genuine accounts of the children's annual experiences planting apple seeds only to be transplanted outdoors with the hopes the sprouting seeds continue to thrive! Ms. Pagan additionally discusses the program's very unique Show Choir experiences. This year, licensing was able to observe children performing the song "Rainbow Connection" which was a highlight of their most recent Show Choir concert. Ms. Pagan indicated family attendance for their Show Choir performances always fills the room! Special annual activities include on-site guest speaker events (e.g. a master gardener, nature center, fire fighter, law enforcement, EMT, dietitian, nature center, dental hygienist), themed days, holiday/seasonal parties, parent/teacher conferences, and graduation ceremony.

PMMP collaborates well with community agencies including the local school districts, early access persons, health professionals, and local businesses. In the main building's entryway, there is a wall plaque dated 1988 (prior to 2017 ownership change) which lists the names of those who were part of the program's very first class. Ms. Pagan discussed how one person, who was part of that first class in 1988 and whose children currently attend, asked to purchase the plaque., Ms. Pagan talked about how special the first year's plaque is as well as the request from that person.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. This program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders are posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study for the month of May included "Cinco de Mayo", Mother's Day, graduation, and Memorial Day. In the 5yo classroom, staff and children were engaged in a clever bee making craft! Children in the combined 3 and 4yo room were involved in center play. Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, sensory, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.