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

Name of Center: Willkie House Inc. **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51772

Street: 900 17th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50314 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 900 17th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50314

Director's Name: Alexandra Rice **Phone Number:** 515-243-7817

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jeremy Gloston **E-Mail:** arice@willkiehouse.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-19-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-21-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-09-2021

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 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				120	120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 08-01-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Willkie House has been providing child care services for several years. The center became licensed with DHS in August 2022. The center is located in a single standing building. The center has security cameras throughout the building. The majority of the classrooms used have cameras. The playground and entrance have cameras also. The center provides child care for school age children. The center has provided care for middle school children also but this program isn't licensed by DHS and the program is separate from the licensed program. Alex Rice is the director of the program. Alex has a Masters degree in Public Management and a Bachelors degree in French Studies and a minor in Education. Alex has been employed with the Willkie House since July 2021. She worked with several agencies prior to coming to the Willkie House, including the YMCA, AmeriCorps and United Way. Jeremy Gloston is the assistant director. Jeremy has a Bachelors degree in Social Work. He's been employed at the Willkie House since 2018.

Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance. Daily schedules/lesson plans are posted at the entrance. Alex and Jeremy assisted with the visit. Alex and Jeremy assisted with the first visit. On the main level, the center has a gym, kitchen, two small computer labs, two classrooms and two smaller rooms. The lower level has another classroom. The classrooms have age appropriate supplies and furnishings in place. Games, art supplies, toys and books are easily accessible for children in each classroom. The center has large motor play toys and supplies in place in the gym.

An unannounced visit was completed. All areas subject to DHHS rules were reviewed. Alex and Jeremy assisted with the visit. Children were observed in the center and also outdoors. Children were in the classrooms and in the gym. At the beginning of the visit, some of the children were still off site at a field trip. The children on site were observed in classrooms. Kindergarten and 1st grade children were in one classroom. There were thirteen children in the youngest group. One staff was with this group. There were fourteen children who were in another classroom, a group of 2nd and 3rd grade children. Two staff were working with this group. Fourth and fifth grade children were in the gym. Two staff were standing by the gym doors, one staff was standing in the lobby area. Two staff were playing with children. Some children were playing basketball in the gym. Several children were going in and out of the gym. Some children were running in the hall outside of the gym. Staff were not able to tell me how many children they had in their care. Alex could look on the center's app and tell me the number of children in that age group that were attending that day but not how many were physically at the center. Staff were asking children to stop running and to stop leaving the gym. Children were not staying in the gym. The 2nd and 3rd grade children were also leaving their classroom without permission.
Jeremy arrived to the center with several staff and the rest of the children. These children joined the rest of the group in the gym. The older children went to their classroom downstairs. There were twenty children with two staff who went downstairs. Jeremy was able to state there were nineteen children who were in fourth and fifth grade as he had brought back ten children.

This worker met with Alex and Jeremy and discussed concerns about the lack of supervision that was observed during the visit. The importance of staff knowing how many children are in care at all times was discussed. The importance of providing a consistent, safe child care setting was discussed. This worker and management discussed ideas and some suggestions were made.

The center has a small kitchen on site. Food storage for the snacks was sufficient. Breakfast and lunch are provided through Des Moines Public Schools. The center provides after school snacks. During the school year, afternoon snack and dinner is served. Menus were reviewed and CACFP requirements are followed.

The center has a fenced playground. There are a couple large climbing structures. There is sufficient surfacing, with wood chips used. There is concrete and grass areas. There is natural shading. Monthly playground checks are completed.

The center has two vans. These are used for off site field trips and they are picking up children at a couple elementary schools.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Alex and Jeremy have a lot of experience in the field of child care and outreach. They worked closely with CCR&R to become licensed with DHS. The center has been providing child care for many years. The center has a gym so children can have large motor play activities daily. Children are provided dinner daily during the school year.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
Staff did not know how many they had in their care during the visit.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Mats that are being used for resting are play mats and are sufficient for resting. Mats are supposed to be at least two inches thick, three to four inch mats are preferable as they raise the child farther off the floor.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This 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 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.