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

Name of Center: Raccoon River Preschool **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 45927

Street: 28059 Fairground Rd **City:** Adel Iowa **Zip** 50003 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 28059 Fairground Rd, Adel, IA, 50003

Director's Name: Betsi Ausdemore **Phone Number:** 515-444-3492

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amanda Taborga **E-Mail:** raccoonriverpreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-06-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-04-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-25-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years. The program will be due for another inspection in 2025.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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 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	0	0	30	0	30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 01-07-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 1/6/25. The director was present for the entire visit and the on-site supervisor was present for a portion of the visit.

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

Raccoon River Preschool (formerly known as New Hope Beginnings Preschool) is a program that was given permission to open on 9/8/15. In 8/2022, the program moved and changed their name. The program is located in a building on the Dallas County Fairgrounds in Adel, IA. The program serves children ages three to five years of age using the Creative Learning Curriculum. The preschool prefers that children are fully toilet trained or close to being toilet trained before being enrolled. There are AM and PM classes (8:45am - 11:15am and 12:00pm - 2:45pm). The capacity of classroom #1 is 16 children. Capacity of classroom #2 is 14 children. There is a smaller classroom within the second classroom that can have no more than eight children in it at one time.

The preschool is overseen by a Board. The director of this program as of 5/24/18 is Betsi Ausdemore. Betsi has a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Services. Betsi also has past experience working in child care. The on-site supervisor of this program is Amanda Taborga. Amanda has an AA degree as well as past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were observed arriving for the afternoon class. Children were later observed in a large group calendar/story activity being facilitated by staff. Children gave specific answers to this consultant on where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This preschool meets a growing demand in the Adel community. Enrollment has again increased over the past year.

Parent participation is highly encouraged. Special events are scheduled throughout the school-year for parents to attend. There is also a parent advisory board. The director stated they have a good relationship with their families.

The preschool has their own website. The center also has their own Facebook page for more communication with parents.

Lead teachers have degrees.

There is a secure entrance during preschool hours of operation.

There are good community partnerships with local businesses such as the library, Lion's Club, Fareway, ISU Extension Office, Fairgrounds, 4-H, etc.).

The program participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Staff stated they work well together and enjoy working with each other.

Good child/staff interactions were observed.

The program works closely with AEA, CCR&R, and their nurse consultant as needed.

The center has had some radon issues and recently had a radon mitigation system installed.

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

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: 1 staff member was missing:
1. Updated Mandatory Reporter certification.
2. Annual professional development training certificates were not available on I - Power or hard copy on the day of the visit.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
Number not in compliance: 1 child was past due for an updated annual physical.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 12/27/24 - 12/30/24. The levels in the building were still higher than the 4.0 cutoff so the center continues to work with a radon mitigation specialist. A radon mitigation system has been installed as of 12/2024. Retesting will again be needed and it was recommended to test again when it gets a little warmer outside for better result readings (i.e. May 2025). After levels get down below 4.0, the center will remain on a two-year testing plan.

The annual furnace inspection was completed 7/23/24.

The program will bring in different agencies for presentations to children. The only field trips taken are walking field trips around the Fairgrounds.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit as was Playground and Brightwheel.

This consultant's new contact information was emailed to the program after the visit concluded.

*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.