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

Name of Center: A Child's World **Enrollment:** 196 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 37616

Street: 475 68th Street **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 475 68th Street, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Ashley Anderson/Nancy Fuller **Phone Number:** 515-224-1339

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** ashmanderson@aol.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-21-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-19-2024

Comments : fire inspections due at least every three years; compliance noted; completed by West Des Moines Fire Dept.

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 NAEYC NSACA Other X 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	77	30	134	14	255
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-02-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year annual visit was completed 11-21-24. The director/owner Ashley Anderson was present through the visit and owner Nancy Fuller available by phone.

A Child's World first opened in 2005and opened at this site 10/2011. Ashley Anderson and Nancy Fuller have always been the owners and co-directors. Ashley had previously been an elementary teacher, and Nancy has been a center director for many years. They both meet the requirements to be a director.

The hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. They serve infants through school age children.

All areas of the program were observed. 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. The playground had some snow cover.

Room Observations: The center uses the Creative Curriculum and the tadpole application. There is a Thanksgiving theme to the curriculum in the classrooms now--which displays staff creativity and involves children's input/activities. The rooms had a variety of centers/activities in each room. Staff were in Ratio. Teachers were observed engaged in leading group activities or caring for the children's daily needs (using restroom/going outside/feeding). This center is clean and classrooms are well-stocked with toys/centers. The owners ensure the center is maintained by refreshing surfaces to keep them clean. Staff were observed to model good handwashing practices; with some reminders for the infant room.

There are 15 enclosed classrooms, plus the former sanctuary area which has enough square footage for 122 children. This area is used as an indoor gym. This sanctuary space is not figured into the licensing capacity.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. Menus follow CACFP guidelines and are crafted by the kitchen staff who also does the food ordering. Meals and snacks are served family style in the classrooms. Menus rotate every 4 weeks and seasonally. The kitchen was clean and nicely organized with good storage practices.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored securely in the breakfast room along with guidelines for dispensing. The classrooms contained first aid kits. Emergency plans are posted in the rooms and drills documented to have been completed monthly. Radon was last tested 1/3/22 and was under the 4.0 cutoff. This center has a newer heating and cooling systems. The owner indicated that there was an HVAC inspection but the company had not provided a certificate; I was able to view the receipt for payment.. There are carbon monoxide detectors in hallways and by director's office.

Playground: The children are able to utilize the gym area when there is inclement weather. The outdoor play area is enclosed with chain link fencing and is divided by ages.. Safety surfacing is rubber chips. There is a large shade structure. The center replaced some play equipment and safety surfacing on the younger children's play area.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking signs were posted. Ten child files were reviewed with two missing emergency dentist contact information and hospital of choice. Eight staff files were reviewed; with only one file indicating a staff physical was completed more than six months prior to hire.. This center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is family owned and parents can rely on either Ashley or Nancy to be present. The owners take pride in ownership and routinely are refreshing frequently used surfaces to keep the center clean. This year, the owners updated the play area with new play structures and safety surfacing.

There are long term staff at the center who are invested in providing quality care to children.

The teachers are engaged with the children in a positive manner and the children are happy. The center has a good core staff and a solid team, they are a good group of caregivers and are dedicated and loyal.

The center has a good reputation in the community and continues to be able to rely on "word of mouth" about this center.

The center offers two conferences a year for families. and the center receives positive feedback from parents on their annual surveys / exit forms.

The center has a secure entrance.

The owners are able to give staff random bonuses for things such as being on time consistently, not having call ins or no show to work days along with showing staff appreciation with gifting pies and acknowledging staff achievements.

Enrollment continues to remain strong.

The owners feel they have a strong curriculum and the children are ready for Kindergarten.

The center partners with AEA often.

The owners/directors are a strong team and they balance each other's strengths.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 2
Information lacking: Two files missing emergency contact information for dentist and hospital of choice.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The last testing was completed in January of 2022 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

This center has an emergency preparedness plan; that is required reading for new staff upon hire and annually reviewing the procedures. The center maintains a written copy of the emergency contact list as well.

The staff were consistently observed to be engaged and responsive to the children. There was a structure maintained in each room and the children were observed to be content

This center has a plethora of activities and centers for the children in each room.

*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.