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

Name of Center: Florence M. Lakin Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52550

Street: 850 N 14th ST **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51501 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 1415 AVE J, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

Director's Name: Jessica McGee **Phone Number:** 712-318-6778

On-Site Supervisor(s): Samantha O'Brien **E-Mail:** jmcgee@themicahhouse.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-26-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-22-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-15-2024

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	16	28	44		88
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 10-18-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Florence M. Lakin Child Development Center on 8-26-2024. This is a new child care building near the Micah House. The mission of the center is to provide immediate access to safe, affordable, Montessori-Inspired, trauma-informed childcare to support the families in our Community and at the MICAH House.
The center provides child care services to infant age children to preschool age.
23 children are enrolled.
Jessica McGee is the director, she has several years of child care experience. Samantha O'Brien is the on-site supervisor, she has serval years of child care experience. I met with Jessica and Samantha during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great, it is bright and cheerful, the furniture and the storage shelves for nap mats is wonderful. There are six program rooms, four program rooms are currently being used. A gym is also used. The children were having fun participating in a variety of activities. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive, nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children. The center uses a combined curriculum of the Montessori philosophy with a strong focus on Trauma Informed Care and Practices. The Montessori philosophy focuses on educating the whole child in all areas of life through hands-on, child-led, sensory-based activities. Using the Montessori method of education provides the center the space to include trauma informed practices like providing a consistent daily routine, choice-based curriculum that gives the child a sense of empowerment. Supportive services are accessible and tailored to the children i.e. different therapy services. The center has a service provider office, conference/meeting rooms, sensory room/provider observation etc. The Playground child care app is used. The daily sheets looked good. Lesson plans/activities are completed by the staff in each program room. Training on lesson plans/activities is needed as some rooms didn't have lesson plans, some lesson plans/activities were very sparse of information. I would suggest using the same format for all program rooms, detailed information is needed on what the children are doing throughout the day. Child Care Resource and Referral can help you with lesson plans/activities.

Nutrition:
The center has a very nice warming kitchen, they provide breakfast and snack and the Micah House provides lunch. Menus were posted. The center will apply for the federal food program.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills were documented. The center will complete radon testing within the first year of being licensed. The building has electric appliances. The center follows medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication. The center wasn't properly sanitizing and disinfecting, staff were very confused on the products and procedures. There were several different bottles of products and staff weren't sure of the proper usage instructions. I discussed sanitizing and disinfecting with Jessica, she said she would consult with the child care nurse consultant and have it corrected immediately. Please follow the three step bottle procedure for both sanitizing and disinfecting 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Jessica consulted with the child care nurse consultant for products to use. Make sure you train all staff on sanitizing and disinfecting.

Playground:
The playground area were recently completed, the center will begin completing their safety inspections.

Transportation:
The program doesn't offer daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Three staff files were read and one was missing a criminal record check and a staff physical. Please have this corrected immediately. The staff physicals must be on the required DHHS staff physical form.
Child files were read and were in good order.
Jessica talks with staff on a daily basis and will provide staff meetings on a regular basis.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Jessica and Samantha are very enthusiastic and proud of the center. All of the staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive, nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
Three staff files were read and one was missing a criminal record check and a staff physical. Please have this corrected immediately. The staff physicals must be on the required DHHS staff physical form.

109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center.Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After diapering a child.Before leaving the rest room either with a child or by themselves.Before and after administering nonemergency first aid if gloves are not worn.After handling animals or cleaning cages.
109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
Staff and child hand washing procures weren't followed. Please consult with your child care nurse consultant for training.

CORRECTED - 109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
The center wasn't properly sanitizing and disinfecting, staff were very confused on the products and procedures. There were several different bottles of products and staff weren't sure of the proper usage instructions. I discussed sanitizing and disinfecting with Jessica, she said she would consult with the child care nurse consultant and have it corrected immediately. Please follow the three step bottle procedure for both sanitizing and disinfecting 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Jessica consulted with the child care nurse consultant for products to use. Make sure you train all staff on sanitizing and disinfecting. What products are you using for sanitizing and disinfecting?

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.Lesson plans/activities are completed by the staff in each program room.
Training on lesson plans/activities is needed as some rooms didn't have lesson plans, some were very sparse of information. I would suggest using the same format, detailed information is needed on what the children are doing throughout the day. Child Care Resource and Referral can help you with lesson plans/activities.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 7-1-2024 to 7-1-2026.

*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.