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

Name of Center: Yellow Brick Road ECDC - Down Town **Enrollment:** 117 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51819

Street: 756 9th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 756 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Kacie Harms **Phone Number:** 515-285-2256

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amber Hibdon **E-Mail:** kacie.harms@ybrecdc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-24-2023

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:** 04-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 07-08-2022

Comments :

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	40	26	89	26	181
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 12-09-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This daycare center opened in 2012. Ownership changed in June 2022 to the present owners. The owners have three other child care centers in the metro area as well as Minnesota and Nebraska. This center is located within a single standing building. The center has two secured entrances. The center offers child care services for children ages infancy through school age. Jen Villegas is the Regional Director of the four Iowa Yellow Brick Road Early Childhood Development Centers. Susie Douglas is the HR Manager of the four Iowa Yellow Brick Road Early Childhood Development Centers. Kacie Harms is the center's director. Kacie has an AA degree in Early Childhood Education. Kacie has been in the child care field since 2011. Amber Hibdon is the on site supervisor. Amber been in the child care field since 2013.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrances. Each class had a schedule posted. This week's lesson plan, Life on the Farm, was posted. Children's artwork is displayed in hallways and in the classrooms. Classrooms are well supplied with age appropriate toys, learning materials and furnishings.

The center has ten classrooms. There are three infant classrooms. One infant class had four infants present. One staff was working in this classroom. A second infant class had eight infants present. Two staff were working with this group. Mobile infants had five infants present. Two staff were working in this classroom. There are two toddler classrooms. One toddler class had six children present. Two staff were working with this group. The second toddler class had eleven children present. Three staff were working in this class. There are three 2's classrooms. One 2's class had ten children present. Two staff were working in this class. A second 2's class had seven children present. Two staff were working in this classroom. The third 2's class had twelve children in attendance. Two staff were working with this group. There is a combined 2/3's classroom. There were eleven children in this class. Two staff were working with this group. There is a PS classroom (3/4's) classroom. Twenty one children were in attendance. Three staff were working in this classroom. There is a PreK classroom and a school age classroom. The PreK class had nineteen children present. Three staff were working in this class. The school age class wasn't in operation during the time of the visit. Children were observed in the classrooms and some were observed on the playground. Some classes were observed during lunch. Some classes were reading books together as a group activity. Some of the younger classrooms were reading books about feelings. Some children were playing individually and in small groups in the interest areas in classrooms. Interactions between staff and children was observed to be positive throughout the visit.

The center has two playgrounds. There is a rooftop playground. The playground has turf for surfacing. There are a few small climbing structures. The other playground is behind the daycare center. The older children generally play on this playground. The center completes monthly playground checks.

The center has a full kitchen and cook on staff. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are served. Menus are on a four week rotation. Menus reflect CACFP guidelines are followed. Lunch today was burritos, corn and mixed fruit.

The center owns two vans that are used for transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owners have many years of experience leading child care centers. The owners are very accessible to administrative staff and hold meetings regularly with the administrative teams. The center is getting some updates done over the next few months. The classrooms are supplied with age appropriate furnishings, toys and learning materials. The center has video cameras in the classrooms and playgrounds. The Yellow Brick Road centers use Kangaroo Time for an app to communicate with parents. Staff used Funny Daffer for lesson planning.

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

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.
The PreK class rests for approximately twenty minutes daily. The children don't have cots and laid directly on the floor. Administration thought because the children didn't nap they didn't need to have cots or mats.
Kacie said they will purchase cots for this class.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The 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.