Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Maharishi Preschool

Provider No.: 23211

Address: 804 Dr Robert Keith Wallace DR, Fairfield, IA, 52556

County: Jefferson

Director's Name: Lynn Shirai

On-Site Supervisor: Diana Miller

Phone Number: 6414729400

E-Mail: ereeder@maharishischool.org
rcook@maharishischool.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/18/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/08/2024

Comments: conducted by SFM Amy Fratzke, due every 3 years

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			25		25
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Maharishi Preschool and Childcare is located in a ground floor wing at the elementary and secondary school building on the campus of Maharishi School of Management in Fairfield. The program is owned and operated by Maharishi School of Management. The preschool provides a daily, morning early childhood educational program for two, three and four year old children and a short, daily, afternoon child care program for preschool age and school age children. A new Director has been appointed this past year. (Lynn Shirai). Ms. Lynn Shirai oversees lower elementary education at Maharishi Lower School. Ms. Shirai has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Child Development and a K-6 Teaching License. She has an additional 100 points in Montessori training. The new OSS is Diana Miller. She is present daily.

At the time of the visit staff were actively engaged in providing the early childhood educational program to the children. I met OSS Miller on 9/18/26 and all program areas were observed at that time.

Program Observations:

The program has 1 classroom available. The classroom is clean, bright, attractive, and equipped with a sufficient variety of child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children. The preschool room is equipped with a phone but otherwise are rooms not self-contained. Children use restrooms in the hallway and have no direct emergency exit to the outside from the classroom.

During visits I've observed children engaged in self-selected free choice activities, teacher lead activities, daily routines,, nap outdoor play and finishing up snack. I observed children eating snack and outdoor play the day of the visit. Children interacted appropriately and were redirected by staff when necessary. Two staff and thirteen three and four year old

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children were present.

Ratio was met and maintained. Children must be supervised and may not use the restroom without an adult outside the door. Children should not leave the classrooms unattended.

The Director has a separate space for her office.

Preschool Nutrition Practices Observed:

Parents provide snacks. The school now provides lunches. Staff must supplement any meals brought to the program that do not meet CACFP guidelines. The classrooms have refrigerators and areas for snack preparation if necessary. Menus are detailed. Consultant Love has covered CACFP requirements with the new OSS.

Dishes are washed by hand. The 3 step method is utilized.

Preschool Health and Safety:

The preschool administers no prescription or non-prescription medication. The First Aid kit is labeled and kept in the middle room on a high shelf. Another smaller labeled kit is kept outdoors inaccessible to the children. The center has the newest First Aid Kit checklist.

Environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment were reviewed. A fuel burning appliance inspection is required annually. The inspection was overdue the date of the visit. The center purchased a plug in carbon monoxide detector (UL approved and non-battery operated) in years past and was replaced in 2020. Radon testing is due every 5 years. The rate is under 4pciL. The building was constructed in 1997 therefore lead based paint assessment is not required. The school building is on city water; therefore water analysis is not required.

General rules and regulations regarding safety were reviewed. Nontoxic cleaning products are kept out of the reach of children in a high cabinet. Staff reviewed the cleaner with CCNC Lauderman. Any new cleaners can be staffed with the CCNC. All lower cabinets had child locks or contained child safe items. Staff keeps personal belongings in the Director's office, so the children do not have access.

In 2019 we evaluated blueprints and adjusted capacity to 63 for three rooms in the program. Capacity in the past only included two rooms. The program added a restroom so that they will be in compliance with the rule stating there must be a restroom for every 15 children. This year the program chooses to utilize one room only for childcare/preschool. They will not serve toddlers this program year.

During nap mats are spaced more than 2 feet apart per rule.

The preschool rooms have an ample of amount of natural light from windows and adequate ceiling light. All electrical outlets are new and child safe.

The program has several fish in a large, clean and well-kept fish tank. Several plants are in the rooms. Staff indicates these are all child safe. The program does have a storage room and can interchange toys and other equipment. Each child should have at least 35 square feet of usable floor space in the classroom. I reviewed documentation verifying emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado. These should be conducted monthly.

We discussed sanitation policies and procedures. Waste containers were covered in the classrooms. I observed the restroom. A hand washing poster was present. An ample amount of toileting supplies were present. All children in the program are potty trained.

Staff are aware of compliance with regulations regarding staff and child hand washing. IDPH CCNCs can conduct a hand washing training with new staff.

Preschool Playground:

The outdoor play area is fenced, naturally shaded, and located adjacent to the preschool. The play area is an Arbor Day

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Foundation Nature Exploration Classroom. This area features the following activities:

1. A Treasure Cove featuring cupboards storing shells, acorns, pine cones, pods, etc., allowing children to observe, build, and design objects from nature.
2. Sparkling Springs featuring activity play in sand, water, and other natural materials.
3. A Tree House Theater with multi-level stage and seating area, natural wood instruments, and butterfly gardens.
4. A Playful Prairie with a willow tunnel, earth slide, and areas for running, dancing, and jumping.
5. Star Quest featuring an adventure area with log steps, tree stumps, and balance beams for physical challenges and confidence building.
6. A Hummingbird Cottage.
7. A Woodlands with paths through prairie grass, ferns, berry bushes, bird houses, and bird baths.

The area also features several species of trees and plants for shade, beauty, and appreciation of the variety of nature. The area had many centers such a gardening, a large gardening tool stand with mini digging tools, wooden tables and chairs in tree stumps to sit on, an art easel, wooden blocks for building, a center including pine cones tree bark tree bark, corn and pine needles. The area contains small wheel barrels, stone pathways, a tricycle, and was surfaced with mulch. The area also contains small plastic toys, trees, and wooden benches to sit on. A wagon is also available for use, as well as rubber balls. There is an area of several logs. There is also a small slide area. The gate around the area facing the street is very sturdy and has plastic coating on the chain. Another part of the play area contains a stone area covered by a wooden roof the roof contains a flower bed. Other parts of the play area include birdhouses of the children have pain it on, a bird bath, and several other riding toys that appear to be in good repair there is a large wooden shelter area with several benches for the children to sit under. A large cement patch where the children ride toys is present. The area is fenced with a wooden fence and a gate separates the front entrance of the playground from the parking lot area. The area contains a small table and another art easel. It also has several bushes and trees. All trees and bushes were previously classified as non-poisonous by the Arbor Day Foundation. New planter boxes were added last year.

An annual cleanup day is typically held in April in which parents and community members assist with planting, weeding and spring cleanup.

If the outdoor play area is not available an area in the hallway can be used for free time. The staff also take the children for walks in the winter. Each child should have at least 75 square feet of usable space when in gross motor activity or outdoors.

Playground inspection forms were reviewed. The Director/OSS utilizes the Child Care Weather Watch to determine if outdoor play is appropriate.

A first aid kit is kept outdoors at all times in a place inaccessible to children.

Preschool Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The preschool does not own a vehicle and provides no transportation. The preschool is considering alternate transportation arrangements for field trips such as public transit. The center takes walking field trips around campus.

Preschool Administrative Records:

The program adopts a proactive approach to child misbehavior by designing the classroom environment to provide sufficient materials and activities to encourage appropriate stimulation and mind engagement. Teachers also employ redirection and encouragement of appropriate behavior.

The preschool has required written policies contained in a parent handbook.

Staff and child files are reviewed annually during visits. The center has 4-6 employees varying throughout the year. Turnover is high.

The Center Director and OSS have access to child files. The Director must have access to child records to ensure all requirements are met. Child immunizations and physicals are reviewed annually. Child physicals must be updated annually. All child files should contain updated medical and dental information as well pick up and emergency contact and pick up authorization information. If children have a health diagnosis requiring action at preschool at Health Care Plan

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should be present. The program may request a child record review and proper forms from CCNC Stooksberry.

Fingerprints for employees are due every 4 years. Iowa Criminal Checks are required prior to start date and every 2 years. We reviewed Mandatory Reporter training, current certification in CPR/First Aid (due every two years) and professional development hours. All employees have signed statements of non-conviction in their files.

Required notices and postings were observed. An unlimited access policy is posted by the main door. I observed a mandatory reporter posting, licensing consultant information, a certificate of license, and no smoking signs were posted by entrances. 911, Poison Control and other emergency numbers should be posted by the phones. Emergency evacuation procedures are posted by each door. An Emergency Preparedness Plan was present. Staff have been trained on the plan and signed and dated acknowledgement of such.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The preschool provides partial scholarships based on financial need.
The preschool provides vision screenings for the children in cooperation with the local Lions Club.
The preschool provides hearing screenings for the children in cooperation with the local AEA.
The preschool is working on IQ4K.
The center should be commended for recycling and encouraging sustainable living practices.
The center has conducted training with parents on Positive Parenting.
CCNC Lauderman conducted an Outdoor Play Injury Prevention Checklist in 2023. Most items on the list have been addressed.
The new OSS has been open to working with resources.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. The Director must update fingerprints. She may not work in ratio until this is complete. The OSS contacted the Director in the next building over to remind her to provide a copy of fingerprint results to the preschool.

2. 109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. The Director does not have required professional development hours. The OSS will remind the Director to complete 8 hours.

3. 109.10(13)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. Five of the nine months of tornado and fire drills were missed during the past year. The OSS agreed to continue monthly drills. The restroom needs emergency lights.

4. 109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept. Five of the nine months of playground inspections were missed during the past year. The OSS agreed to continue monthly inspections.

5. 109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. The last fuel burning appliances report was from 2024. The OSS agreed to procure a new one.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center agrees to correct listed deficiencies. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be

maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants CCNC Stooksberry is the new Center CCNC. She is available to assist with health and safety questions.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant Malia Love. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, IQ4K, child concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org Malia Love Funding provided by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services through the Child Care and Development Fund

The center can meet with with CCNC Kelsey Stooksberry, American Home Finding Association, and CCR&R Consultant Malia Love on a regular basis for training assistance and consultation services.

This center has had high turnover with Directors the past several years.

The school has a website: http://www.maharishischooliowa.org/

Date: 09/25/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.