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

Name of Center: Discoveries Learning Center Inc. - Waverly Campus **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49112

Street: 403 Technology PL **City:** Waverly Iowa **Zip** 50677 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: 1011 Donna ST, Denver, IA, 50622

Director's Name: Kathy Bohlmann & Jackie Moyer **Phone Number:** 319-352-5522

On-Site Supervisor(s): Megan M. Smith **E-Mail:** kathyrbohlmann@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-15-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-02-2023

Comments : Compliance on 08/14/23

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	0		42	24	66
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-15-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 08/15/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Discoveries Learning Center at the Waverly Campus. I met with Jackie Moyer, the co-director. Ms. Moyer has been employed by Discoveries Learning Center since October 2020 and the director since January 2022. Ms. Moyer has a BA in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. She has several years of experience in childcare and was previously a director of a program. Kathy Bohlmann is the owner and co-director. Ms. Bohlmann has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. She has previous experience as a director, is a Child Care Resource and Referral instructor and she has worked for Head Start. Ms. Bohlmann is also the director and owner of the Discoveries Learning Center-Denver Campus and the Discoveries Learning Center-Eagle Street. Megan M. Smith is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Smith started with the program in August 2019, and she has an AA in business administration. She previously worked with special needs children at EPI and is currently the lead teacher for the three-year-old classroom. The Waverly Campus employs eight staff members.

The program is in a free-standing building. They were given permission to open on 08/23/17. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm and serves children ages three-years-old through school-aged children. The program partners with Waverly Community School to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant. Madeline McGarvey is the lead teacher for the voluntary preschool class. She has a BA in early childhood and elementary education. She completed her early childhood degree through TEACH. She started with Discoveries in September 2017. The voluntary preschool class meets Monday through Friday from 8:30-11:30 am, but preschool is available from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm. The center also offers a full-time three-year-old preschool class during the same hours. There are currently 52 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: Three-year-old (Bonsai Room), Four-year-old (Aspen Room) and School-Age room (Willow Room). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room. Rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed at the center include library, blocks/Legos, puppets, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science, listening, Play-Doh, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The voluntary four-year-old preschool program uses the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans and complete the GOLD assessments. Activities are planned around studies. The preschool program participates in the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). The other rooms use a curriculum based on Creative Curriculum and a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Handwriting Without Tears is used to teach letters. The length of the study depends on the topic and the children's interest. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire is used for the three and four-year-old classes. ISU Ages and Stages is used on children six and older. Assessments are completed twice a year on everyone who attends the center to document progress. Lesson plans were available for review.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents throughout the day and send them pictures. They also use the app to check children in and out and for billing.

Emergency numbers with the center's phone number and address were posted in each room. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in July 2024 and must be repeated in two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the Willow Room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/02/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). It does follow the CACFP guidelines. The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. They use a four-week rotation of menus. Family style is not used. Diane Smith is the cook. Menus were posted. Ms. Smith has been trying several new foods for the children and adjustments are recorded on the menus. There are two refrigerators in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Disposable products are primarily used. Other dishes are washed using the three-step method in the kitchen. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. Allergies are confidentially posted in the rooms and posted in the kitchen.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize food tables.

Cots are used to nap in each room.

The program has a fenced in playground area. Woodchips are used for fall surfacing. There is a piece of climbing equipment with slides and a climbing wall. There are wooden steppingstones, a merry-go-round and a playhouse. There is a large grassy area. There are several picnic tables. There are two storage containers used for toys to be used in the area. There is a dramatic play area and a basketball hoop. There are seats made of logs. Trees are used for shade. The first-aid kit was taken outside with the children.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. There are also community resources located in this area.

Staff members have great attitudes and seem to enjoy working in the center. They were actively engaged in activities with the children. They interacted at their level while playing with them. They offered the children choices and were flexible with their schedules. They had creative ideas to keep the children active since they were unable to go outside due to the weather. They maintained positive conversation with the children and allowed them to share stories. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Moyer is a terrific director. She has great relationships with the staff members who work for her. She helps in classrooms as necessary. Her paperwork is organized and easy to review. She has several years of experience in childcare.

Ms. Moyer states her staff members are very well trained and they know their role in the center.

Ms. Moyer states her two lead teachers, Madeline McGarvey and Megan Smith, are great. Ms. McGarvey completes GOLD assessments three times each year and Ms. Smith completes assessments twice each year.

Ms. Moyer states they use the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and to communicate between staff members. She states they have good communication.

The center has an IQ4K level 2 that expires in 05/31/25.

Ms. Moyer states that Ms. Smith does an amazing job as the cook. She stats having a cook is great and she is reliable.

Ms. Moyer states they have a good partnership with Wartburg College to find education majors to work in the center. Wartburg students do their field experiences at the center and get paid by the college.

The Lion's Club conducts vision screenings and Central Rivers AEA conducts hearing screenings.

The program partners with Waverly Community School to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant.

The program provides parent/teachers conferences in the fall and spring. They have families' complete questionnaires in the spring, so they know what they need to work on and what they are doing well.

The center partners with Central Rivers AEA, Taylor Therapy and Northern Iowa to provide services to children with identified needs.

The school district provides bussing to and from the childcare program.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance of the school room.

The program is in a secured building.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.