

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

Name of Center: Dodger Academy **Enrollment:** 144 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 47782

Street: 945 S 18th ST **City:** Fort Dodge **Iowa Zip:** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 945 S 18th ST, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Erin Brookshire **Phone Number:** 515-574-5863

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** ebrookshire@fdschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-06-2020

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-22-2020

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General				150	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 10-01-2020 to 10-01-2022
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 10-08-2020

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Dodger Academy on 10-06-20 where I met with center director Erin Brookshire who began with this program for the 2019 school year. The program is located in the Butler Elementary school in Fort Dodge. The program provides after school programming for school age children only. There are approximately 140 children enrolled in the program served by 10 teachers and volunteers. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The program makes use of the cafeteria, library, and gymnasium of the school with large open floor plans and designs typical of their normal intended use. All were observed to be clean and in good repair with no issues related to maintenance. Each are interior spaces with no windows. Restrooms are located just off the cafeteria space, and off main hallways of the school. Each as multiple exits from the area.

Because of the multiple use nature of the facility none of the areas are specifically set up and arranged for use by the after school program but a variety of games, crafts, and other materials are brought out for the children to play with. A storage area that has rolling doors just off the cafeteria space is used to store items for the program. The doors to this area are usually opened and the children allowed to chose the materials they want to play with however the center is limiting access as means to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Good interactions were observed with all of the staff being engaged with the children. A daily schedule and curriculum were posted and the program has made a point to focus on a curriculum that provides support for completing homework, and activity groups. Good behavior management practices were observed with the teachers redirecting the children, helping them identify positive behavior choices, and Erin makes use of a chime board as a means to focus attention when engaging the group as a whole.

Good health and hygiene practices were observed with the school and program implementing several temporary required practices in response to the current Coronavirus pandemic. This includes restricting access to the facility, daily health screening of children, encouraging face coverings, implementing social distancing, and enhanced cleaning. The center does maintain a limited supply first aid kit which is accessible in the cafeteria area but also has access to the school nurse/office which has additional first aid materials present. Children were observed to wash their hands after restroom use, and also directed to wash their hands prior to snack service. The program does not routinely administer medications but does have policies and procedures in place should it become necessary in the future.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but a snack is provided. The program has the school cafeteria staff prepare a snack menu for them. Snacks typically consist of single serving items and milk or juice. The school does ensure that the snacks do meet the CACFP requirements for nutritional credibility.

The program does have the option to make use of the school playground. The playground was observed to have a variety of climbing structures and swings. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing beneath the climbing structures intended for older school age children. Pea gravel is used beneath the swings and a preschool age climbing structure. The pea gravel was observed to have developed a hard pan layer and needs to be aerated or have material added to ensure a proper depth of fall surfacing. The equipment was generally in good repair but the disc climber on the school age structure is damaged and

children need to be directed to not use that climber until it is repaired. The fencing surrounding the playground is missing several retaining clips allowing the fence to move away from the poles and creating an entrapment risk.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices and information was posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. The program now has access to Infinite Campus to track information regarding the children's records, and also prints a copy of the contact information. All required documentation was present. In reviewing staff files Erin noted that these are missing elements due to the extended program shutdown related to the Coronavirus pandemic. Erin did have a self-audit which identified that 2 staff needed an updated background check, 4 needed FBI Fingerprint checks, and 3 needed updated physicals. It is understood that due to general shutdowns some services were/are not being provided and there will be delays in being able to obtain the information. The center will need to continue to monitor information and once services can be obtained the records will need to be updated. All required inspection logs and certificates were current and available .

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has continued to grow and develop over the past year with an increase in enrollment and daily attendance.

The center has done an excellent job of implementing social distancing practices with dividing the children in to age groups that remain in separate areas, and further distancing within those cohorts with practices such as assigned seating in the cafeteria where children sit 6 feet apart.

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.

-- Documentation not found for 2 files.

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

-- Documentation not found for 4 files.

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: 3

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 disc climber of the school age climbing structure is damaged and shall not be used until repairs are made. The fall surfacing beneath swings, and the preschool climber has developed a hard pan layer and shall not be used until the fall surfacing has been aerated or augmented. The enclosing fence has several retention clips that are broken/missing and need to be replaced.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.