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

Name of Center: University of Dubuque Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 57 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18854

Street: 1001 McCormick St **City:** Dubuque Iowa **Zip** 52001 **County:** Dubuque

Mailing Address: 2000 University AVE, Dubuque, IA, 52001

Director's Name: Tammy Pierro **Phone Number:** 563-585-7461

On-Site Supervisor(s): Teresa Fischer **E-Mail:** tpierro@dbq.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 01-07-2025

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

Date Inspected: 01-24-2024

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 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	5	9	46		60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 01-09-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 1/7/25. The center director, Tammy Pierro, was present along with other staff. Tammy is highly qualified with many years of previous center director experience. The center is owned and operated by the University of Dubuque and is located on campus in a building designed specifically for the center. The center typically provides care for children age six weeks to five years. Typical operation is from 6:30am to 5:30pm, however, evening care is offered from 5:45pm to 9:00pm for the University of Dubuque Life Program, Monday through Thursday, depending on need. The university pays for this child care as part of that program. These children do not attend the center until, at the earliest, 5:45pm. There may also be school age children who attend in the evenings for this program. The center director states that school age children do not otherwise attend this center. This center participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program.

The center includes the following program rooms on the main floor of the building: Infant Room/nursery (zero to approximately 10 months), prek room (four and five year old children), and transition Room (approximately 10 months up to second birthday). Program rooms are generally adequately supplied with materials to meet program needs. There is an adjacent restroom area in a short hallway that is shared by the nursery room and the prek room. The restroom area includes two toilets and two sinks. Diaper stations and hand washing sinks are located in the nursery and transition rooms.

The lower level is one large room that is separated by a half wall and now a plexiglass barrier for the two (18 months to three year old children) and three year old (three to four year old children) areas. Both areas were arranged with the typical learning/interest centers. The three year old area is larger and includes plenty of accessible materials to support program needs. The two year old area is smaller and also includes plenty of accessible materials to support program activities. The restroom area is adjacent to the twos area with a diaper station, two separated toilet stalls, and two hand washing sinks. Children from the three year old room do have to travel to this area to use the restroom and to wash hands. Discussion again occurred regarding the travel required here and that ratio and direct supervision of restroom and hand washing activities are maintained. The director states that the center typically continues to staff the lower level such that these requirements can be maintained, and staff state that on the occasion that the staff in the two year old room have to help supervise a three year old child, communication between staff occurs, direct supervision is provided, and ratio is not compromised.

The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, afternoon snack, and dinner. The center does participate in the CACFP. Lunch and dinner are prepared at the University of Dubuque licensed kitchen and are brought over to the center with a staff assigned to do the final meal prep in the center's small kitchenette area to get items out to the program rooms. The kitchenette area appears clean and organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center director has many years of experience managing a center, and this center continues to be very well managed. The center continues at three star IQ4K rating through 10/31/26. The building is generally clean and well maintained. The rooms are bright with windows (on both levels) and decorated in child friendly themes including with the children's crafts and projects posted. The center has a good supply of books organized by topic. The center receives excellent support being

owned and operated by the University of Dubuque. The center also uses the local AEA program for borrowing materials regularly to enhance curriculum and available materials for the staff and children for program activities. The staff were again observed to be engaged with the children in all program rooms, and the staff continue to appear to work well together. Many of the staff have been with the center for a number of years. The center participates in the WAGES program for staff. The center has sectioned off with fencing a small portion of the outdoor play area (the center reports this is 16 feet by 20 feet) for use by the infants, and the center director reports staff take a few children out at a time. Since the last licensing visit, the center has installed more barrier between the two year old and three year old rooms on the lower level providing more barrier for noise and creating more separation of space for each room. Licensing documentation and staff and child files continue to be highly organized, and the center director has an excellent system for tracking staff and child files.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure dishes are completely air dried before stacking and putting them away in cabinets.
2. Review diaper changing procedures with staff. Staff shall get out just the materials needed before they start the diaper change (not entire package of wipes).
3. Some children are too tall for the tables in the preschool room. Adjust as necessary and place children at appropriately sized tables.
4. Fix the diaper station cabinet doors in the infant room so that they close properly and does not present pinch hazard.

The center will continue with a full license. Please address the violation(s) and/or concern(s) noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

*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.