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

Name of Center: Story Book Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50734

Street: 515 Broad St **City:** Story City Iowa **Zip** 50248 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 515 Broad St, Story City, IA, 50248

Director's Name: Mariah Duszynski **Phone Number:** 515-733-0100

On-Site Supervisor(s): Christin Larkin **E-Mail:** storybookchildcare@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-22-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-01-2021

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

Date Inspected: 07-13-2022

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

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	8	20	15		43
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-06-2022

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/22/22. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This center was given permission to open on 8/19/19. The building is old construction that was remodeled to be a daycare center. Mariah Duszynski is the director. Mariah has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and operated a registered child care home for six years prior to opening this daycare center. Mariah also has prior experience as a preschool teacher and an assistant director. Mariah meets qualifications to be the director. Christin Larkin is the on-site supervisor, starting in this role in April of 2022. Christin has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Music and has twenty prior years of experience in a childcare setting. Christin meets qualifications for this role.

This center has three separate classrooms. There is an infant room that will serve infants 6 weeks up to two years of age. This room has a capacity for 8 children. There is a middle classroom for two and three year old children and this has capacity for 20 children. There is a preschool classroom that is also used for before and after school programming for school age children that has a capacity for 15 children. The center has a playground and a kitchen area.

There are now two session of preschool rather than four sessions. These are offered on either M-T or Th-F in the am and pm, from 8:15 am to 11:15 am and from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. There are no preschool sessions on Wednesdays. The center also offers wrap around care for these preschool children as well. The center provides for before and after school care and summer care for school age children.

The center offers care to children from the age of 6 weeks up to around 10 years of age. The center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The center offers full and part time care.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a QRS (now called IQ4K) rating of 4 stars, based on a 1-5 star scale.

The center provides a much needed childcare service in the community.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum with teaching strategies gold, as well as some aspects of the Pocket of Preschool curriculum. The center uses themes in the toddler classroom and Project Approach.

The center strives for positive and effective communication with families. The center sends out weekly emails to parents with updates and each classroom has their own Facebook page that is private for parents to see pictures of real time events for their children during the day.

The center owner participated in the Childcare Collaborative resource for centers and the center now has the Playground app. This app allows for real time communication with families and assists with signing in and out and payments. The owner received a $1000 technology grant and has two I-Pads in every classroom. The staff and parents like this app and the designers for the app have been very helpful.

The director conducts quarterly staff meetings. The center is closed on the day of the staff meeting to allow staff all day for the meeting and for a potential training day.

The director is very organized and efficient.

The director and on-site supervisor strive to show staff they are valued and appreciated. Staff are provided snacks and treats and the director lets staff know she is there for them and available for breaks.

The center works well with CCR&R as well as AEA and the school district.

The center is community oriented. The center is starting to return to activities that took place prior to the pandemic and are now back to going to the library every week and in October started going to the care center again once a month with the children. The center had an open house in August. The center participates in town events, such as the downtown trick or treat at Halloween. The center had a food drive for the community.

The center has a secure entrance.

The classrooms are well equipped with center activities and developmentally appropriate toys, games and activities.

The center has a private Facebook page where they post pictures and information.

The center owner/director is training now to be a CPR/First aid instructor.

The school age children did field trips almost daily during the summer, going on walks to the pool and parks. They had an international mud day celebration. They had a summer reading program.

The center has guest speakers for the children.

The staff are reliable and a strong, supportive team.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's menu reflects they are following CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last conducted radon testing in November of 2022 and all rooms tested were below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is scheduled to be inspected on the 2nd of December.

Discussion took place regarding the new Playground app and completing daily notes on the app. The director will ensure staff are putting in a daily disposition for the children, which has been taking place even though there is not a section called daily disposition.

Discussion took place regarding noise machines for the infants and not having these on a hook up high in the crib. These were removed. Nothing should be attached to the crib, hanging on the crib or in the crib with the sleeping infant.

*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.