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

Name of Center: New Creations Child Care & Learning Ctr at EP True **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52267

Street: 3424 EP True PKWY **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3424 EP True PKWY, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Halie Darrow **Phone Number:** 515-415-4400

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mikala Woolcot **E-Mail:** eptrue@newcreationschildcare.com cambria.morris@newcreationschildcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-06-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-18-2025

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

Date Inspected: 03-12-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshall typically does annual inspections. Licensing requirements are that these are done 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	30	26	80	25	161
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 08-07-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

New Creations Child Care and Learning Center at EP True opened on 8/14/23. The center serves children ages six week through five years of age. The center is located in a single standing building that has a secured entrance. This is one of three New Creations programs located within the Des Moines Metro. The center is privately owned by a company based out of Minnesota. The director of this center is Halie Darrow. Halie has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working in child care. The on-site supervisor is Mikala Woolcot. Mikala has an AAS degree and also has past experience working in child care. The regional director is Cambria Morris. Cambria has a BA degree and also has past experience working in child care , which includes being a director at other programs in the Des Moines area.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. All mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Children's belongings are kept in cubbies which are located in each classroom and on coat hooks in hallways. The center uses the company's New Creations Learning Curriculum. Classroom schedules were posted. A current weekly lesson plan, "Camping" and the monthly theme, "Sizzling Summer" was posted by each classroom. The center had eight classrooms in operation. All classrooms were observed today. The gym area was also observed. Classrooms are well furnished with age appropriate furnishings and supplies.
The center has four infant classrooms, two infant classrooms and two waddler (1's) classrooms. The center has one 2's classroom, one 3's classroom, one 4/5's classroom and one KinderCamp room. All classrooms were at or above ratio requirements. Children were observed during various play and learning activities. Some children were observed having lunch. Some classes were observed preparing for rest time and also during rest time. Staff were observed to be actively engaged with the children throughout the visit.

The center has a kitchen on site. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. The center prepares breakfast and snack. The center gets lunch from New Creations Child Care and Learning Center at Ankeny. Menus reviewed showed compliance with CACFP requirements. Lunch served today was chicken and noodles, peas, peaches and milk.

The center has three playgrounds. There is surf and grass for surfacing. There is fencing around the playground areas. There are playgrounds for the one's, the 2 and 3 year old children and for the 4 and five year old children. The center completes monthly playground checks.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center that meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The center uses an electronic app (Daily Connect) for more thorough communication with parents.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

The center was clean and there was good lighting throughout the building.

The regional director, director, and on-site supervisor both have past experience working in child care. They are all organized.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

This director also has regular meetings with the other two Des Moines metro directors and regional director. There is continuity between the three programs. There is also a maintenance person who is on site between the three programs.

The director stated staff appear to work well together and are willing to help each other.

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

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

There was a climbing play slide in the gym. This structure requires surfacing material due to the height of the structure. Halie said the play equipment will be moved to the playground, where surfacing is in place.

The center has a full license.

*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.