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

**Name of Center:** Creative Center For Young Children **Enrollment:** 58 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27822

**Street:** 1001 Pleasant ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

**Mailing Address:** 1001 Pleasant ST, Des Moines, IA, 50309

**Director's Name:** Amanda Claussen **Phone Number:** 515-280-3032

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Nicole Van Cleave **E-Mail:** director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 05-10-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-14-2023

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-11-2023

**Comments :** Des Moines Fire Marshal. A fire inspection is required at least every three years. Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

**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:** 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 | 0 | 12 | 35 | 44 | 91 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-10-2023

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

A licensing visit was conducted on 5/10/23. The new director and new on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Creative Center for Young Children is a non-profit child care center located in the First Methodist Church in downtown Des Moines (right next door to Methodist Hospital). The center opened for business in August of 1991. Amanda Claussen is the new director as of 10/2022. Amanda was previously the on-site supervisor. Amanda has a BA degree in Early Childhood and has worked in child care for many years. Nicole Van Cleave is the new on-site supervisor as of 11/2022. Nicole has an AA in Early Childhood and has past experience working in child care. Both individuals meet the licensing requirements for director and on-site supervisor. The center is overseen by a Board.

The center serves children ages two through eleven years of age, Monday through Friday, 6:30 am - 6:30 pm. The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teachings. There is a secure entrance into the center area. Parents have a code to enter to the classroom areas. All other visitors must ring a doorbell to gain access.

During the visit, children were observed in the Creative Movement Room engaged in a large motor game that was facilitated by staff. Other children were observed playing on the playground. Staff were spaced out on the playground supervising children.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Staff generally get a lot more professional development training than what is required.

The center has many long term staff members and staff with many years of child care experience. All four team leads either have BA degrees or AA degrees.

The center has a strong focus on fine arts.

The center has a creative movement room where Spanish lessons take place once a week. Ballet is taught once a week as well as music and movement, yoga and dance.

The center provides a wide variety of field trip options for school-age children during the summer months.

Teachers send out weekly emails to parents with updates, lesson plans and photographs. The Pro-Care system is also used

often.

The center conducts a yearly fundraiser and the money raised goes toward improvements at the center and updates.

The center has a website, a Facebook page, and an Instagram page.

The center has a strong working relationship with the church.

Portfolios are prepared for every child for parents to browse through during parent teacher conferences.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

The center participates in the TEACH program.

The director has her NAC and the new on-site supervisor will complete this in the future.

The director and on-site supervisor believed they had a good group of staff who work well together.

The center was very clean.

Enrollment remains steady.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children.
In two of the lower classrooms, the air conditioner cords need to be more securely fastened to walls and/or tucked behind other equipment.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing was conducted 7/22/22 - 7/25/22. Radon levels in classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. So long as radon testing levels always remain below 4.0, the center can stay on the five year plan for testing. If next time levels are 4.0 or higher, the center will have to retest and go back to the two year testing plan.

The annual furnace/boiler inspection expires in 10/2023.

The center owns a bus that they use to take children to/from school and for field trips. The bus was not observed this visit as it was off site getting detailed.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

The specific cereal options should also be listed on the food menu.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.