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

Name of Center: Happy Hollow Preschool & Childcare-Southwest **Enrollment:** 79 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51189

Street: 400 3rd Ave SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 400 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

Director's Name: Haley Mussman **Phone Number:** 319-540-0410

On-Site Supervisor(s): Angela "Angie" Clifton **E-Mail:** haleymussmann@gmail.com, HappyHollow18@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-28-2023

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: 07-24-2023

Comments :

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 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	36	12	28		76
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 09-26-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Happy Hollow Preschool and Childcare - Southwest (PSCC-SW) commenced operations on 9/14/2020. Happy Hollow PSCC-SW operates year-round, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 5:30pm. Current enrollment is 79. While enrollment exceeds capacity, there are never more than 76 children present at any one time.

Original owner and director of Happy Hollow PSCC is Haley Mussman. Ms. Mussman has a MS degree in early childhood studies, a BA degree in early/elementary education, over 16 years experience working with children (including experience operating a registered in-home daycare), and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Angela "Angie" Clifton. Ms. Clifton has an AA degree in business management, over 9 years of experience working with children (including experience operating a non-registered in-home daycare), and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 8/28/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Happy Hollow PSCC - SW offers a variety of early learning/childcare programming options to help meet the needs of children and families in the community.

The year 2023 marks the 3rd full year of Happy Hollow PSCC - SW providing childcare and early learning services to children and their families throughout the community. Congratulations!

According to Happy Hollow PSCC - SW's handbook, the mission of the program is "...based on the belief that children learn best in a program that provides developmentally appropriate educational experiences...Our goal is to provide a safe, loving and stimulating environment from the time you walk in the door until the time you leave..."

Happy Hollow PSCC - SW sponsors a social media pages for families and staff.

Happy Hollow PSCC - SW has a history of participating in quality initiatives including local quality initiatives and CACFP. Ms. Mussman discussed future goals related to participation in IQ4K and increased staff training.

Ms. Mussman is a local entrepreneur invested in the community. Ownership and management of Happy Hollow PSCC - SW has remained consistent since opening over 3 years ago. This includes one-site supervisor Ms. Clifton. The management team (e.g. Ms. Mussma, Ms. Clifton) is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. The management team is organized and has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner.

Since the last monitoring visit, the program has retained staff as well as hired some new staff. Various staff reported celebrating 3 years, 2.5 years, 1 year and 2 months of employment at this childcare. Management described their team of

staff as "steady and strong...a group of people who just work well together..." Management continues to report flexible scheduling whenever possible, encouragement of professional goals (e.g. CDAs) and regular displays of staff appreciation (e.g. staff board, 2023 staff challenge "Biggest Looser") is a large part of their program's success.

Happy Hollow PSCC - SW has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This childcare successfully navigated through the 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event, 2019 health (Covid) pandemic and 2023 degraded air quality.

Happy Hollow PSCC-SW continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Mussman discussed the positive family feedback they received from a recent 2023 "Back to School" carnival celebration that included Kona Ice, balloon clown, and many games.

Happy Hollow PSCC-SW collaborates well with the church in which they are located. Building and grounds are maintained. Church administration and the church board help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The kitchen is spacious and sanitary. Management continues to step into the culinary role each food service. Management discussed how they continue to maintain healthy CACFP approved foods on-site in spite of various supply and demand issues.

Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) were displayed in areas of the center. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum includes learning through play and teacher-inspired ideas. Since the last review, some child areas were re-arranged, supplies increased and clever "Rest Spots" were established.

Happy Hollow PSCC - SW collaborates well with community agencies including local school districts, early access persons, CCR&R, health department, and many local businesses.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Infant cares (e.g. holding, feeding, talking with) were observed. The common area of study throughout the classrooms included "Back to School". Activities observed were many (e.g. book reading, center play experiences, circle group discussion). Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, sensory items, building materials, crafts) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and redirecting when needed. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.15(3)b Children under six months held or fed in sitting-up position. Bottles not propped for any child, given to a child in a crib or left sleeping with a bottle. Spoon feeding is adapted to developmental capabilities of child.
- Licensing observed a boppy pillow in a 1yo room crib. When asked, staff reported they were using it for an infant to self-feed from a bottle while placed into the crib. Licensing, management and 1yo room staff reviewed safe sleep and infant feeding rules.

109.12(5)c. Highchairs or hook-on seats shall be equipped with a safety strap which shall be engaged when the chair is in use and shall be constructed so the chair will not topple.
- An infant was observed to be seated in a high chair without safety straps engaged. Licensing and staff discussed how all equipment in licensed childcare shall meet US CPSC and ASTM standards and be used as the manufacturer intends including engaging equipment safety straps when in use.

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.
- Two staff files (BS, TB) reviewed lacked documentation of current physical exam with TB screening and/or testing. Management reported both staff have a physical exam with TB screening and/or testing happening in the near future.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure each refrigerator/freezer unit on-site contains a thermometer (e.g. infant room freezer).

Continue to ensure cots are stacked as manufacturer intends and are secured to help prevent a topple injury hazard.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.