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

Name of Center: Mighty Trojan Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 27 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46100

Street: 606 Illinois St **City:** Blairsburg Iowa **Zip** 50034 **County:** Hamilton

Mailing Address: PO BOX 10, Webster City, IA, 50595

Director's Name: Brittney Gibson **Phone Number:** 515-325-6234

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** jhector@webster-city.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 10-14-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-06-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-05-2024

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			16	20	36
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-17-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Mighty Trojan Daycare Center on 10-14-24 where I met with lead teacher and program director, Britney Gibson. Brittney started with the center at the beginning of September 2022 and is qualified for the position based on her experience and on-going training. The program is located in the Blairsburg elementary school and operates throughout the year providing full range care to infants through school age children. There are currently 27 children enrolled in the program served by 4 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of the school and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The center originally made use of 4 classrooms however, only 2 are currently being used. The two rooms that are currently being used were those that were previously identified as being for infants, and 2 year old children. The center is looking to resume use of a third classroom for the school age children. The classrooms are connected by an intervening door. Each space is accessible from the main school corridor but both also direct secondary egress to the outside. The parent notice board is located in an entry area for the outdoor access for the infant room. This did create an issue in that during the visit this entry was used as a main entrance for preschool age children arriving at the center in the afternoon resulting in those children walking through the infant room. Emergency evacuation notices were posted by the exits but only included written instructions and diagram instructions for both fire and tornado evacuation are required. Both rooms were observed to be clean with no concerns due to maintenance or design noted. The primary programming room, previously identified as the toddler room, has restroom facilities just off the programming space so that children do not need to leave the room. Additional restrooms are located off the main corridors of the school if needed. The room used for infant care does have a changing station present. Each room has sinks that allow for hand washing located in the rooms. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light and a view of the outdoors. Classrooms are divided into activity centers through the placement of furnishings and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

The available activity centers also remain the same and include options such as dramatic play, large and small manipulatives, group learning, art/crafts, media, table games/puzzles, and reading. The toys and materials in the classrooms were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posed. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with the teachers being engaged with the children and providing assistance. The children were having lunch when I arrived and then progressed to engaging in nap time. During the visit the teachers assisted the children with eating, and rubbing the backs of children to help sooth them to sleep. The center uses positive behavior supports with the use of routines and reminders of expected behavior, recognition of positive behavior, and redirection as needed. During the visit the teachers used calm and encouraging tones when speaking to the children.

The center does need to review some health and safety practices. During the visit I was able to observe diaper changes and the teacher did follow the posted requirements but when washing the children's hands used a wet towel. It was reviewed that while using a wet cloth or paper towel to wash hands is allowable soap does need to be added to ensure proper hygiene. Good hand washing practices were observed with older children and the teachers. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible, and were not used when children were in the immediate area. First aid kits are maintained in classrooms and the program also has access to the

school nurse/office where more extensive supplies are maintained. There were no children taking any prescription medications on the day of my visit and over the counter (OTC) medications were labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Safe sleep practices were reviewed during the visit as it was noted that one crib did have a knitted/crocheted afghan in the crib. In speaking with the teacher in the classroom she did confirm that a child does sleep with the afghan, and another child under 1 year of age is swaddled using a light weight blanket. While no infants were observed sleeping in either situation during the visit it was reviewed that both situations would be prohibited. It was discussed that knitted/crocheted blankets are prohibited as they can unravel and become an entanglement and strangulation hazard. It was further reviewed that swaddling is prohibited in centers and is not recommended for children after 6 weeks of age in general. It was noted that later in the visit a child was placed in a crib to sleep and safe sleep requirements were followed.

The center does have access to school facilities such as the gym, and playgrounds. The playground area was not reviewed during the visit due to being used by the school age children at the time. Prior reports do identify that the the school age playground has several areas with climbing structures and activity centers intended for various ages including a preschool age structure. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing. Shade is provided by the equipment, mature trees, and a covered shelter. The playground also has a paved walking track, basketball court, and large open grassy areas.

Meals are prepared by the school cafeteria and a copy of the planned menu was posted. The meal served on the day of the visit included a corndog, pineapple, corn, and reduced fat milk which was consistent with the posted menu. Lunch was being served when I arrived and the staff did modify the corndogs by cutting the hotdog part for younger age children. While the staff did not eat with the children they did provide supervision at the tables. The program does maintain a limited supply of snack items and good food storage practices were observed on the day of my visit. A refrigerator is maintained in the infant room and again good food storage practices were observed with thermometers present to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained.

A review of administrative records found all required notices and postings were present in an area that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. Child files were reviewed and contained all required information. One issue that was noted was with regard to infant daily sheets. The center uses a form that does prompt staff to include all required information except Daily Activities. It was discussed that this required and could be included in narrative format in the Notes section of the form. In reviewing staff files the Iowa SING and FBI background checks are maintained at the school district central office and prior communication with that office regarding other programs that the district is partnered with it was confirmed that all licensed program staff files had been audited and 2 were identified as needing a renewed Iowa SING background check. The center handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has been very consistent and stable over the past year in terms of programming, staffing, and child attendance.

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

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- Information regarding daily activities was not being included on daily reports.

109.6(6)c Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 2 records had recently expired and needed to be renewed.

109.11(2): A safe and properly equipped area is provided for infants that does not allow for intrusion by children over two years of age.
Children over age two who remain in the infant area are placed at the recommendation of a physician or AEA due to a significant developmental delay. Children are placed for a limited time with DHS approval if doing so does not pose a threat to the infants.
-- The center is using an entrance that passes through the infant room for children and visitors arriving. There is an option for access through through the main interior access corridor of the school, or a direct exterior exit for the preschool room which can be used for older children.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat,

car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
-- Knitted/crocheted afghans were present in at least one crib, and it was reported that swaddling was used for one child. Both are prohibited.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.