

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 03-01-2017 to 03-01-2019
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 02-27-2017

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 02/02/17 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Kessel Kids Child Care and Learning Center in Cresco. I met with Melissa Vobr, the director. Ms. Vobr has been the director since 2008. She has a BA in psychology and business administration. She was an assistant director for two years at the center prior to becoming the director. Ms. Vobr has received her National Administrator Credential (NAC). She is also a NAEYC member. Brenda Pecinovsky is in charge when Ms. Vobr is away from the center. Ms. Pecinovsky is the assistant director and she has been with the program since December 2012. There is 31 staff members employed at the center.

Kessel Kids Child Care and Learning Center operates out of a free standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:00 am until 6:00 pm. They care for infants through school-aged children. The program started in 1993 and they moved to their current location on 06/02/08. The building was a partnership between the Howard-Winneshiek School District, Head Start, HAWC and Keystone AEA. There are currently 156 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: two infant rooms (one for mobile and non-mobile children), a room for younger one-year-old children, A room for older one-year-old and younger two-year-old children, a two-year-old room, three-year-year-old room, four and five-year-old room, and one school-aged room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with multiple pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There are areas for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, puppets, art, dramatic play, Play Doh, Ipads, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

There are two infant rooms that are connected by two walk through areas. One room is for mobile children and one is for non-mobile children. When there are not many children at the center they utilize one room. Jenny Kruse is the lead teacher and Kathy Hill is her assistant. On the day of the visit Ms. Kruse, Kayla Frye and Jeanette Cotant were the staff members in the non-mobile room. They were caring for six children. There are seven cribs in the room. I observed one exersaucer and two bouncy seats. Activity gyms are available for the children and there are mats on the floor for the children. Daily sheets are maintained on each child.

Kathy Hill and Wanda Reicks were the staff members on the mobile side. They were caring for seven children. There are three cribs in the room and the older children also use cots when they are ready to transition to the next room. There is one exersaucer and one jumperoo in the room. Daily sheets are maintained on each child.

Staff members in both rooms worked great together. They were nurturing and attentive. I observed them rocking children, hugging children and kissing children on the foreheads. Staff members held children on their laps and sat on the floor to

interact with the children and introduce them to activities. Staff members in the immobile room worked on tummy time with the children. Staff members had great knowledge of the children's schedule. They talked to the children in a soothing and comforting manner.

There are two adjoining areas to connect the immobile and mobile rooms. One area is for bottle and food preparation. The older infants eat at a table in this area. The second area has two diaper changing tables and a sink. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There were separate garbage cans for the soiled diapers. I observed diaper changes and procedures were followed most of the time. I observed Ms. Reicks perform a diaper change and she left the gloves on to diaper the child and put on the child's clothes. I explained to her that the gloves need to be removed after removing the soiled diaper. She correctly diapered children after this. There is an adult bathroom off this area as well.

There are two adjoining rooms used for the toddlers (Little Explorers). Heather O'Brien is the lead teacher for the toddler rooms. Ms. O'Brien and Joyce Rogne were the caretakers in the room for the younger toddlers. They were caring for eight children. There is one adult sink and one child sink in the classroom. Handwashing procedures were posted. The program does not use the child sized sink because the children like to play in the water. There is a bathroom in the classroom that has one toilet and a diaper changing table. Diaper changing procedures were posted. I observed a diaper change and procedures were followed.

Lisa Sobolik and Vanessa Thomas were the staff members in the toddler room for the older children. They were caring for four children. There are two children sinks and one adult sink in the room. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom with one toilet and a diaper changing table. Procedures were posted. I did not observe a diaper change.

The children in both toddler rooms were engaged in free play. Staff members were terrific with the children. They sat on the floor and actively played with the children. They introduced them to activities and provided the children with praise. Staff members in both rooms were singing with the children. They held children on their laps and kept them entertained. They provided attention to each child and encouraged the children to use their imaginations during play. The current theme in the room is Groundhog Day. Daily sheets are maintained on the children and cots are used to nap. Please remember that the two-year-old children in the toddler room cannot be cared for in the same room as children under the age of eighteen months old.

Amy Norby and Liz Shea were the staff members in the two-year-old room (Little Dreamers). They were caring for eleven children. Ms. Pecinovsky was in the room assisting for a while also. There are two children sinks and one adult sink in the room. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom with one toilet and a diaper changing table. Procedures were posted. I observed a diaper change and procedures were followed. The children were engaged in free play and then moved to snack. The room was chaotic and the staff members had some problems in getting the children to follow their directives. I think this will improve if they work on their routine. A staff member was blowing bubbles in the room for the children and the children enjoyed chasing the bubbles. The staff member sang with the children as they washed their hands for snack. The room had several children who liked to climb and staff members used positive redirection to get them down. The current theme in the room is manners, handwashing and the letter "U". Daily sheets are maintained on the children. Cots are used to nap.

Sam Jennings is the lead teacher in the three-year-old room (Speed Racers) and Sabrina Bina is the assistant. They were caring for ten children. There are two children sinks and one adult sink in the room. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom with one toilet. A mat is used for diaper changes. I observed a diaper change and procedures were followed. The children were finishing snack when I arrived and then moved to free play. Staff members have a great routine and worked well together. They sat on the floor and played with the children. They entertained the children and encouraged them to use their imaginations. They moved around the room to interact with all of the children. They provided a very positive atmosphere and it was obvious the children were having fun. The current theme in the room is Groundhog Day. Daily sheets are maintained on the children. Cots are used to nap.

Ashten Frana is the lead teacher in the four and five-year-old room (Little Engineers) and Ashley Knox is the assistant. They were caring for nine children. There are two children sinks and one adult sink in the room. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom with one toilet. The children were making a science board when I arrived. The children were making handprints on a bulletin board using paint. The children then read books and moved into free play. Staff members offered the children choices. They had children sit on their laps and they read books to them. They actively played with the children and provided good reminders of handwashing. Staff members talked with the children about sharing. The current theme in the room is Chinese New Year and Groundhog Day. Cots are used to nap.

The school-aged children use the multi-purpose room. School-aged children were not present the day of the visit because they were in school. During the school day this is where preschool children involved with the Howard-Winneshiek School System eat lunch. They use a bathroom located outside of the room. It has one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted.

The program uses the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources to create lesson plans. Activities are based on

themes. The length of the theme depends on the topic. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans and turns copies of them in to Ms. Vobr. Newsletters are prepared monthly by each room and provided to the parents.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and diagrams were posted by the main program and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted and lesson plans were available for review.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed:

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Lunch is prepared by the Howard-Winneshiek School district year around. The center prepares breakfast and the morning and afternoon snack for the children. Ms. Vobr and Ms. Pecinovsky prepare breakfast and snacks. The center dishes food out on the plates and serves them to the younger children at the table and the center serves the older children family style. The meals and snacks are served in the rooms. The kitchen area has an industrial refrigerator and freezer. Thermometers were present. There is also a small refrigerator in the infant room and a thermometer was present in the refrigerator and freezer. An industrial dishwasher is used for dishes. The kitchen staff washes the dishes by hand before running the dishes through the dishwasher. Dishes are then allowed to air dry.

The center provides formula, jar food and cereal to the infants. Parents are allowed to bring their own formula for the infants if they want a different brand. The parents provide the bottles and they are left at the center and put through the dishwasher. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

Breakfast, lunch and snack menus are posted in the kitchen and in each of the rooms. Allergies are confidentially posted.

Center Health & Safety:

Over the counter medications are kept in a lock box in each room. Prescription medications are typically stored in Ms. Vobr's office, but may also be kept in the rooms. Medication is stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. It is labeled with the child's name and kept out of reach of the children. Medication authorization forms are maintained for prescription and over the counter medications. Parents must provide a start and end date for prescription medications and I must see documentation for every day the medication is in effect. If the child is not present during this time then the staff members should document on the form the medication was not given because the child was gone. If a parent provides an over the counter medication for an infant that states a doctor must provide the dosage for a child under 24 months old, then a parent must provide documentation from the doctor. Over the counter medications are labeled with the child's name. The center has several complete first-aid kits and they are replenished as necessary.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. A radon test was completed in January 2016 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located in the hallway. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/07/16.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and diaper changing tables. I observed the teacher prepare the tables for snack and proper procedures were followed. I also observed staff members clean and disinfect diaper changing tables and procedures were followed. Staff members and children were observed washing their hands and IDPH handwashing procedures are followed.

Center Playground:

The child care center has two fenced in outdoor play areas. The child care center recently added a new large naturalistic play area. There is a hill built into this area that has two slides. There is also a large sandbox, a rock path, playhouses, a stage for the children to perform on, a music center, sensory center, chalk boards, and tree stumps to walk across. There are flower and vegetable gardens and trees provide shade. There is a bridge on the rock path for the children to use and picnic tables available.

The second area recently added a new fall surfacing. They removed the rubber tiles and added Poly Extruded Matting (PEM) for cushion surfacing. The PEM Playground Matting has shredded rubber contained in chambers. This area is divided into two spaces to accommodate a space for infant and toddlers. There is no equipment in the infant/toddler area. The area for the older children has climbing equipment with slides and other activities, a sandbox, a bus to sit in, and a balance beam. There is also a grassy area for the children and a picnic table. Shade is provided by the building and a shade structure with a tarp. A tree has been planted. There is also a large multi-purpose room available for indoor activities. Monthly playground inspections are maintained for both areas.

Center Transportation Arrangements / Field Trips:

The center has taken field trips with the school-aged children during the summer months. If transportation is necessary they use the Howard-Winneshiek buses or the local transit system.

Center Administrative Records:

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 22 children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed ten staff files. There were three outdated Iowa Background checks (SING), but this was corrected while I was present. There was one outdated universal precautions training and one outdated mandatory reporter training. Several staff members have completed the Essentials training and several are in the process of taking the training.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed. Evidence of staff orientation on policies and emergency plans were documented. For discipline, the program uses positive reinforcement and behavior management techniques. The center uses positive guidance and redirection. They take a proactive approach to reduce the likelihood of the behavior, offer clear and consistent rules as well as involve a child in problem solving to foster a child's ability to become self-disciplined. Time away is used if necessary.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Vobr states the center has a great group of people working for them. The core group pulls together when necessary. They are open-minded to change and to improving. They had a good attitude about taking the Essentials training. Staff members work well together and have good working relationships.

Ms. Vobr states they are hoping to have Sue Balk, a former Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) employee, work for them to provide observation in the room and work with staff members on improving the classroom environment and room arrangement.

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4.

Ms. Vobr states their staff members are there for the right reasons and they are a nurturing group.

Ms. Vobr and Ms. Pecinovsky have a terrific working relationship. They both are committed to the program and take on a lot of responsibility to make sure things are getting done and that they are done correctly. They both visit rooms to assist as necessary. They both put in several hours each week to make sure the children are cared for and staff members are trained and feel comfortable and supported in their rooms.

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

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.

There were three outdated SING checks. These were updated the day of my visit. CORRECTED.

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department occurs every 5 years. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed. There is one outdated mandatory reporter training.

109.10(3)b: For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given.

Parents must provide a start and end date for prescription medications and I must see documentation for every day the medication is in effect. If the child is not present during this time then the staff members should document on the form the medication was not given because the child was gone.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 319-292-2429; email rfrost@dhs.state.ia.us so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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