

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 04-01-2019 to 04-01-2021
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date: 05-13-2019

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit to East Union Early Childhood Center on 4-15-2019. The program is located in the East Union Community School building. During the school year the program provides preschool and wrap around child care services to preschool age children from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday (program time is 8:15 am to 3:15 pm). During the summer and school breaks i.e. Christmas break and spring break the program provides care to school age children. There are four program rooms. There are sixty children enrolled. Hope Hall continues to be the Director, she has her Master's Degree in Education. I met with Hope Hall during my visit. Donna Allen is the on-site supervisor. The program has a combination of NAEYC accredited, Empowerment, Shared Visions and Statewide Voluntary programs.

Observation of rooms:

Each room has a lead teacher with a Bachelor's Degrees in teaching and two teachers are working on their Master's Degree.

Jamie Needham's room - 2 1/2 to 3 year old room - This is the youngest preschool room. This room has a diaper changing table.

Miss Hardy's room - three to five year old room.

Erin Aalfs room - three to five year old special education room.

Stacy Feehan room - three to five year old room.

All four rooms look great and have fun and inviting activity centers. All rooms were in ratio. The children were observed having fun in a variety of activities. The rooms have a great variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The activity centers, equipment/toys are rotated on a frequent basis. Each teacher creates their own lesson plans/activities - the lesson plans looked great. Each room prepares a weekly newsletter for the parents.

The center has family fun nights throughout the year.

Each preschool room has gym and music class once a week with the respective elementary school teacher.

Nutrition:

The center is on the federal food program. The school provides lunch and the center provides breakfast and snacks. During the summer the center provides the snacks and they participates in the free breakfast and lunch program. The children eat in their preschool rooms and meals are served family style.

Health and safety:

If a child is prescribed medication the center follows proper medication management procedures.

Five radon tests were completed in January 2019 and the test scores were in the acceptable range. The program has first aid kits.

The center has all electric appliances, and they have carbon monoxide detectors.

Fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented every month.

The maintenance staff reported that the boiler inspections are current.
The program rooms have a timer for hand washing and brushing teeth.
Please do not put non diaper changing related items on the diaper changing table as this may cause cross contamination.
Please review diaper changing procedures with staff. Also please review the diaper changing disinfecting procedure with the child care nurse consultant i.e. product and three bottle method.
Please make sure all plastic bags in the program rooms are not accessible to the children as they are a safety hazard.

Playground:

The center has a wonderful nature explore outdoor classroom. They were very excited to become Nature Explore Certified in 2016. The area has a stage, digging, tunnels/tubes, sand box, benches, and a shed. Pea gravel is used for surfacing. The center practices and documents monthly playground inspections. Each room has an exit to the outdoor classroom.

Administrative records:

The center has all of the emergency procedures and the emergency preparedness plan.

Staff meetings are held every other month, on the opposite month Hope meets with the staff individually. Hope meets with lead team members on a weekly basis.

Ten children's files were read and many needed emergency contact information for the dentist. Hope is in the process of correcting this and adding the dentist and phone number to child files.

Staff files were read and some were in need of current criminal and national (fingerprinting) record checks. Hope reported that record checks are being updated.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center looks great and the preschool rooms have wonderful age and developmentally appropriate equipment. The curriculum that are used - Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold, and the Gold reporting. The outdoor nature explore classroom is a terrific asset to the program and they truly embrace all it has to offer and want to expand the amount of time spent using the area. They are Nature Explore Certified.

The center participates in the Quality Rating System (QRS) and they have a level V.

Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they are positive and involved in programming.

Hope is very confident as the director, she is creative and very enthusiastic about the program.

The center uses a phone application called SeeSaw - The parents are tagged to look at their child's photos and the center newsletter is also on this phone application.

Family fun nights are held throughout the year. They include a parent education component and have provided information on a variety of topics such as bed time, eating meals together and vocabulary.

New in 2018/2019:

New staff have been hired.

The center has received grants for equipment and supplies.

NAEYC Accreditation.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS Criminal History Record Check, Form B, that was submitted prior to employment. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.

Hope reported that all staff record checks are being updated as required.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

Hope reported that the children's files are being corrected, the dentist name and phone number is being added.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes. Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.

Additional concerns: Please review diaper changing procedures with staff. Please don't place items on diaper changing on changing table, this may cause cross contamination.

Also please review disinfecting procedure/products with the child care nurse consultant.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for East Union Early Childhood Center for 4-1-2019 to 4-1-2021.

*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.