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

Name of Center: UDMO Early Childhood Program-Jefferson School **Enrollment:** 77 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30281

Street: 411 E 10th St **City:** Spencer Iowa **Zip** 51301 **County:** Clay

Mailing Address: 101 Robins St, Graettinger, IA, 51342

Director's Name: Serena Smith **Phone Number:** 712-264-8855

On-Site Supervisor(s): Denise Graettinger **E-Mail:** dgraettinger@udmo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2024

Licensing Visit **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:** 08-09-2023

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

Date Inspected: 05-01-2024

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			108		108
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 09-27-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the UDMO Early Childhood Program - Jefferson School on 10-25-24 and spoke with on-site supervisor Denise Graettinger. Denise is well qualified for the position having extensive experience and education in early childhood care and education. Serena Smith is the new director of Headstart. The program is one of several sites overseen by UDMO and provides early head start and head start programming only serving children 2 through 4 years of age. The program is located in the old Jefferson Elementary building and makes use of 6 classrooms for child programming. Each room has a traditional classroom design with the exception of the early head start classrooms which were created by dividing one classroom into two smaller rooms. Each room was observed to be clean with no concerns related to maintenance or design. All but one room have restroom facilities available in the classroom. Additional restroom facilities are located off the main hallway. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and serve as secondary emergency egress. Hours of operation was changed to 7:00am to 5:00pm with early out on Wednesdays at noon. Early Headstart operates yearly, but does close for a couple of weeks in August to prepare for the next school year.

There are 77 children enrolled in the program and there were 72 present at the time of the visit. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, five senses, globe of the world, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, engaging the children in activities, sitting at the tables with the children during meals and reading stories to the children. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum and Gold in their teachings.

The program does have a morning and afternoon wrap around daycare program for children that remain at the center for those parents who work. It was noted that as children transitioned to that class the teachers had a good schedule with a quiet group activity of reading a story to the children and then having the children lay down on cots. The program utilize one of their classrooms where the children will stay or be combined depending on numbers. The wrap around hours are from 7:00am to 8:30am and then 3:40pm to 5:00pm. On Wednesdays, Headstart gets out at noon. Children will either be picked up by parents or will stay for the wrap hours.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed in the center. Each classroom maintains a general first aid kit in the classroom, and a nurse is also present on-site. The center has good cleaning policies and procedures in place and chemical cleaners were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children.

The center has a full kitchen. Meals are all prepared on-site again starting with the 2024-2025 school year as they did contract with the local Hy-Vee for their lunches last year. The center does provide a simple breakfast and afternoon snack for the wrap around children. A copy of the menu is posted and a good variety of nutritious food options was identified. All children eat in their respective classrooms. Family style is used in serving lunch and the children brush their teeth

after breakfast.

The center has several playground areas with a natural playground space, and more traditional playgrounds with climbing structures. There are two traditional playground spaces with one for older age children, and one for the younger age children. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing in the playground intended for the older children, and unitary foam tiles are used in the other. The traditional playground spaces have added additional shade structures. The other equipment was observed to be in good repair. Each playground is enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Shade is provided by the play structures, and large mature trees.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily available and visible to parents and visitors. Staff files will be reviewed at the program central office at a later date and any issues identified will be addressed at that time. A random selection of child files found each reviewed file contained all required forms and contact information. All required inspection logs, and certificates were current and available.

Goals of the program is to work on staff retention with more coaching for new staff.

Strengths of the program is that staff work well as a team. Also staff have a good relationship with the families that they serve. The program provides alot of coaching and offers professional development. Program is on the IQ4K program level 1.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is on IQ4K program level 1.

This program continually seeks to exceed licensing requirements and implement best practice recommendations.

The center has a website and a Facebook page.

The center practices PBIS for children who are having a difficult time adjusting/behaving.

Children's art work was displayed in classrooms.

There are two homes visits each year as well as two parent-teacher conferences throughout the year.

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

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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 2
Information lacking: Information was missing

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Program will email consultant by 10-31-24 confirming that all aspects below standards has been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.