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

Name of Center: The Voyage Early Learning Journey **Enrollment:** 85 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49740

Street: 1101 SE Gateway Dr **City:** Grimes Iowa **Zip** 50111 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1101 SE Gateway Dr, Grimes, IA, 50111

Director's Name: Kristen Miner and Candice Langworthy **Phone Number:** 515-986-6203

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hannah Gibson **E-Mail:** kminer@thevoyageelj.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-30-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-03-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-21-2024

Comments : Johnston - Grimes Fire Marshal. State requirements are that these inspections are done at least every three years.

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 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	48	24	89	34	195
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-30-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 5/30/25. The director, Candice, was present throughout this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Voyage Early Learning Journey is a center in Grimes, IA that was given permission to open on 4/2/18. The center serves children ages six weeks in age to roughly 10 years is age using the High Scope Learning Curriculum and the Creative Learning Curriculum. There are a total of 11 classrooms and then also an indoor gym.

The owner of this center is Kristen Miner. Kristen has a BA degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Education Leadership. Kristen previously worked for several years in the school setting. Candice Langworthy is the director. Candice has her CDA and was previously the on-site supervisor. Previous to working at this center, Candice had worked for many years at another center which included time as an assistant director. The on-site supervisor is Hannah Gibson. Hannah meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor based on her professional development training and past experience working in child care.

During the visit children were observed in a variety of activities from napping in cribs, being held, eating in high chairs and at child-size tables and chairs, washing hands, coming in from the playground, engaged in a large-group story activity being facilitated by staff, and leaving to be transported to preschool. Children and staff questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment is lower during the summer months, but still steady overall.

The center was clean and nicely decorated. There is a lot of natural light throughout the center.

There is an indoor gym when weather or conditions do not permit outdoor play.

The center has a website and they use the online application, Brightwheel. Information such as children's daily sheets (if children under two years of age), food menu, handbooks, staff, etc. can be found in this online application.

Security cameras are present. There is also a secure entrance into the building.

Staff reportedly work well together. There is a good mix of tenured and newer staff of all different ages.

Quarterly all-staff meetings are held.

The center has a full-time cook.

The playground is large with several different opportunities for children to engage with on the playground.

The director and on-site supervisor are organized.

The director and on-site supervisor have a good working relationship with one another and able to easily bounce ideas off of one another.

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 medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 3
Information lacking: All children enrolled in the center, regardless of age, need to have listed a doctor and a dentist. The name, address, and phone number should be included. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR AND AGAIN PERHAPS WITH THE ACTUAL BRIGHTWHEEL APPLICATION THAT PARENTS COMPLETE.

109.12(4): .Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.
One of the tricycle handle bars was missing the the rubber gripping piece.

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.
Diapering procedures were missing in one of the classrooms.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
All infant bottles should be labeled with the children's names or initials on them.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 1/25/23 - 1/27/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was from 5/21/24, but again scheduled for 6/5/25.

The center has two vans and one bus. These vehicles are serviced regularly. School-age children go on field trips. School-age and Preschool children are transported to/from school.

I-Power and IQ4K were both discussed at the visit. Several staff again need to upload training certificates to their I - Power profiles.

Hand washing signs should be posted in all restrooms.

*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.