

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

**Name of Center:** A to Z Learning Center & Day Care-Donald      **Enrollment:** 72      **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21731

**Street:** 307 E Donald St      **City:** Waterloo      Iowa      **Zip** 50703      **County:** Black Hawk

**Mailing Address:** 307 E Donald St, Waterloo, IA, 50703

**Director's Name:** Chris York      **Phone Number:** 319-232-4325

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Chris York      **E-Mail:** atoz307d@hotmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 06-12-2020

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 10-18-2019

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:** X      **Child Care**      **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** X      Profit      Non-Profit      NA

**Accreditation:**      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:	<i><u>Year-round</u></i>	<i><u>School-Year</u></i>	<i><u>Summer Only</u></i>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	11	16	40	12	79
Summer					0

**QRS Rating:** 4

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b>	
X	<b>FULL</b> license from 07-01-2019 to 07-01-2021
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from
	<b>DENIAL</b> of initial application
	<b>SUSPENSION</b> of license
	<b>REVOCACTION</b> of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 06-22-2020

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

N/A

## II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 06/12/20 I made an announced off year licensing visit to A to Z Learning Center and Day Care in Waterloo. Licensing visits are currently announced due to the Covid 19 pandemic. I met with Ashley Chase, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Chase has a BA in elementary education and reading. She has obtained her National Administrator Credential (NAC). She has been with A to Z since October 2008 and the on-site supervisor since May 2017. The day of my visit was Ms. Chase's last day with the program. There are twelve staff members employed by the center.

A to Z Corporation operates four child care centers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. Chris York is the executive director of the centers. She has been involved with child care for over thirty years and she has been the director of A to Z Learning Center and Day Care since it opened in 1991. Ms. York will be in charge of the Donald site until a new on-site supervisor is hired. Tylasia Anderson will be Ms. York's assistant at the center and will be in charge when Ms. York is not available.

A to Z on Donald Street operates out of a free standing building. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. It serves children who are six weeks old through twelve-years-old. A to Z on Donald Street also houses the state voluntary four-year-old preschool program through the Waterloo Community School during the school year. Donita Schmitz is the teacher for the preschool. The preschool program operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 10:00 am. There are currently 72 children enrolled.

The program operates out of the following classrooms: Bear Cubs (6 weeks-12 months), Alligators (12-24 months), Monkeys (younger two-years-olds), Doodle Bugs (older two-year-olds), Jungle Friends (three-year-olds), Sea Creatures (four and five-year-olds), and Clowns (school-aged children). An inspection of each room was completed. Not all of the rooms are currently being used due to low numbers as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Windows provide natural lighting and artificial lighting is also used. The rooms are decorated with 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 is an area for circle time in the rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, woodworking, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, 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. There is a storage shed on the playground for the younger children that is broken. This should be repaired or removed. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

A variety of resources are used to create lesson plans. Activities are developed around weekly themes. The themes are the same for the entire center and then teachers in each room are responsible for planning the activities. Lesson plans were available for review. Activity calendars were also posted in every room.

The program provides parents with a monthly newsletter to keep them informed on the themes and activities and to remind them of important dates.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and diagrams were posted by the program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted in all of the rooms.

The center cooperates with Central Rivers AEA to provide the children with hearing and vision screenings. They also routinely work with Child Care Resource and Referral. The center has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expires on 01/31/21. The preschool program participates in the Iowa QPPS program.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Ella Prichard is the current cook. The center has a rotation of four menus. Meals were previously served in the classrooms family style for the older children and the younger children are served their food. Currently, all classrooms are served their food and family style is not being used due to the pandemic. Dishes are returned to the kitchen to be washed. Menus were posted. Refrigerators were present in the refrigerators and chest freezer.

The program uses bleach to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

During this pandemic, the program is taking the temperature of every child who enters the center. Parents are not allowed to walk through the center, but bring the child inside the entrance. The center has a thorough cleaning and sanitizing schedule. There are no plush items in the center. Cots and cribs are used to nap and bedding is washed daily. Children are not allowed to bring any items from home into the center.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The program is currently practicing drills at the same time every month. Drills must be practiced at various times of the day to include all children and staff members. This includes drills in the morning and afternoon. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in June 2018. The program has the kits to test the program this month. Previous results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located on all three levels. There is one in the Doodle Bug room, the Sea Creature room and the Bear Cub room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/08/19.

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.

There is no hot water in the girl's bathroom in the Sea Creature room. This must be repaired. Post diaper changing procedures in the Monkey room.

In the infant room, there was a boppy pillow in one of the cribs. This was being used to prop a child up. It is against safe sleep practices to have anything in the cribs with a child under the age of one year old. Additionally, there was a FDA ban on the pillows a few years ago, but an exception was made so they could be used for their intended purpose, nursing mothers. The pillows should only be used for this purpose and not used to prop children up. If you do not have nursing mothers the pillow should be removed.

Also, in the infant room there was a bumble chair without safety straps that was being used for an infant. These items cannot be used without safety straps. One child was wearing a teething necklace. These are considered a choking hazard and cannot be used in child care centers. There were infants that were using pacifier clips to attach pacifiers to the children. These are not allowed in child care. I observed a diaper change. The staff member held the child while cleaning and disinfecting the changing table. This is not allowed. You must wash the child's hands, set the child on the floor and then return to the table to clean and disinfect it.

There was a fish bowl in the kitchenette area in the infant room. No animals are allowed in kitchen areas.

### **III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expires 01/31/21.

The center houses the voluntary four-year-old preschool program and participates in the Iowa QPPS program.

The program provides transportation to school-aged children to Highland, Lincoln, Cunningham and Carter schools.

Ms. Chase states the staff members work as a team and help one another out.

Ms. Chase states staff members have good ideas that they bring to her and they work well with the parents.

Ms. Chase states the staff members are great with the children and there is good communication with the parents, between staff members and with Ms. Chase.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease. There is no hot water in the girl's bathroom in the Sea Creature room. This must be repaired. Post diaper changing procedures in the Monkey room. Also, in the infant room there was a bumble chair without safety straps that was being used for an infant. These items cannot be used without safety straps. One child was wearing a teething necklace. These are considered a choking hazard and cannot be used in child care centers. There were infants that were using pacifier clips to attach pacifiers to the children. These are not allowed in child care. I observed a diaper change. The staff member held the child while cleaning and disinfecting the changing table. This is not allowed. You must wash the child's hands, set the child on the floor and then return to the table to clean and disinfect it.

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.

In the infant room, there was a boppy pillow in one of the cribs. This was being used to prop a child up. It is against safe sleep practices to have anything in the cribs with a child under the age of one year old. Additionally, there was a FDA ban on the pillows a few years ago, but an exception was made so they could be used for their intended purpose, nursing mothers. The pillows should only be used for this purpose and not used to prop children up. If you do not have nursing mothers the pillow should be removed.

#### **V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

An administrative change is being named to remove Ashley Smock as the on-site supervisor. She has moved to a new area. Chris York will assume the director and on-site supervisor role until a new on-site supervisor is hired.

\*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.