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

Name of Center: Safari Child Care & Preschool **Enrollment:** 43 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51457

Street: 403 P AVE **City:** Milford Iowa **Zip** 51351 **County:** Dickinson

Mailing Address: 403 P AVE, Milford, IA, 51351

Director's Name: Dani Mueller **Phone Number:** 712-338-2731

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tatum Green-Zalabowski **E-Mail:** safarichildcare2021@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-16-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-17-2023

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

Date Inspected: 01-03-2022

Comments :

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 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	10	7	30		47
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 06-11-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited Safari Daycare on 05-16-24 and spoke with Dani Muller owner/director for Safari Preschool & Childcare. Ms Muller has a two year degree in Early Childhood and several years working with children. In May 2021, Dani purchased the childcare center and changed the name from Safari Daycare to Safari Preschool and Daycare. Safari Preschool & Daycare was a church that was converted into a daycare. The center has 4 rooms: an infant room, two year old room, three old and preschool room for 4 to 6 year olds. The program operates Monday through Friday 7am to 5:30pm. They provide care for children ages 6 weeks to 6 years and currently have 43 children enrolled.

All areas of the program were observed. The areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in cleaning toys that children use.

The center has the following areas throughout the rooms that are age appropriate for the children to explore and learn: sand/water table, writing area, art, reading, blocks, toys, dramatic play, science and puzzles. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Children have access to bathrooms. Displayed throughout the room were the shapes, numbers, picture schedule, children's artwork and the alphabet. Child size furniture throughout the area. Staff had good interaction with the children throughout the day.

The infant room has sufficient amount of toys and equipment in the room. Children have access to a changing table and sink. The room had sufficient toys for the number of infants they serve. Bobby pillows are recommended to be removed from the infant room which the center did and will only be used for nursing mothers.

Meals are prepared onsite in a kitchen that is inaccessible to the children. Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted in an area visible to parents. Center participates in the CACFP program.

Medication is stored in a lock box. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon tests completed. The center needs to make sure that the children's bedding do not cross contaminate and are separate from each other. Annual furnace inspection needs to be completed as center put in a new gas furnace. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center has two fenced-in playgrounds adjacent to the building, one area for younger children and the other for the older children. The program had received grant money and updated their playgrounds. They put in poured rubber surfacing in both playgrounds, new fence, and re-stained and fixed wooden play equipment as well as added a sidewalk for riding toys. They have two shade structures for added shade for the playground. The playground has slides, climbing equipment, riding toys, and a playhouse. Monthly playground inspections are completed.

The center purchased a 15 passenger van for field trips. Only the preschoolers go on field trips. For the younger kids the nature center and library staff come to the daycare. The art center has a bus that will pick the children up and transports

them to the art center.

Center goals put a new fence on the playground, BIP and IQ4K program, to increase enrollment and maintaing staff.

Strengths of the program is that Dani feels that she has a good group of staff who are dependable. The staff also have good communication with the children and families that they serve. he center also has cameras in the rooms. The center has a security system for the building. Dani continues to work with CCRR for support.

Director does monthly meetings and added a 2nd door in the toddler room. They also changed to offer 10 hours days for staff which started 04-01-24. They also painted inside of building, new windows, shades on windows and landscaping. They also added 2 professional development days for staff trainings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center uses Bright Wheel software to communicate with parents.

The center has a Facebook page.

Display children's art work in the room.

Center has posted pictures of children involved in various activities.

Center has child size furniture throughout the area.

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

109.7(3): During their first three months of employment, all staff shall receive the following training:Two hours of Iowa's training for 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.

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:

Please provide consultant with an email confirming that those items that fall blow standards have been completed by 07-05-24.

A full license is recommended at this time 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.