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

Name of Center: Akron Children's Center **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29663

Street: 270 N 4th St **City:** Akron Iowa **Zip** 51001 **County:** Plymouth

Mailing Address: PO Box 762, Akron, IA, 51001

Director's Name: Christina Compton **Phone Number:** 712-568-2990

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** childrenscenter@premieronline.net clewison.childrenscenter@premieronline.net

Date(s) of Visit: 12-05-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-29-2020

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 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	16	12	32	20	80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 12-06-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited this center on 12-05-23 and spoke with director Christina Compton. Christina became director in May 2022, which prior she was the onsite supervisor. Ms Compton 2 year degree in childcare and 26 years working with children. The center serves children infants through school age Monday through Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm. Akron Children's Center is located in a facility specifically designed for child care. The program uses 4 rooms-- infants, two year old's, three year olds and the preschool and schoolers are combined and use the school-age room. The center rents two rooms to the Akron-Westfield School district for 4 year old preschool. Headstart is no longer providing services at this location as of the end of school year May 2023. The center did move 1 room to a previous preschool room and the 4 year old preschool moved one of their rooms into the headstart room. Akron-Westfield school provides all day universal preschool. Parents use a password to get into the center all others must be admitted by staff.

There are 23 children enrolled in the program, however, at the time of the visit there were 11 children present. 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 continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center continues cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the rooms 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, and reading stories to the children. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center utilizes the Creative Curriculum and Gold in their teachings for the 3 year old preschool program.

The program had applied for a grant and updated their playground. This year they added more turf, and flower chalk boards which are hung on the fence. The center has turf around climbing structures and in the toddler playground.

Infant room:
Changing table for diapering is available in the infant and toddler room. Sufficient amount of toys for the children.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Nutritious meals are prepared onsite in the kitchen. Refrigerators are clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted. The center participates in the CACFP program.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test and annual heating inspection are complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide

detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has updated their playground. They have two fenced-in playgrounds adjacent to the building. One for the younger children which has a slide, playhouse, water table and sandbox and turf for surfacing. The larger play area has a climbing structure, sandbox, music, and turf for surfacing. They also have shed to store outside toys. The children have access to shade on the playground.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The center will take walks to places in town, but do not transport.

Center goals: To apply for more grants and increase enrollment. More benefits for staff and to get on the IQ4K.

Strengths of the center is that they have a good core group of staff who work well as a team. The staff have a good relationship with the families they serve, the community, head start, and the school.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center has a core staff. Staff have a caring environment with good communication and relationship with the children and families that they serve.

Display children's art work in the rooms.

Three year old Preschool room has conferences twice a year to let parents know the skills their child needs to work on and what they have mastered.

All rooms have children's toys accessible and at children's level.

All rooms post daily highlights on a white board, outside the room, of what was done in the classroom.

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. Staff member needed to have mandatory reporting and essentials completed within 90 days.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email corrections of items that fall below standards by 01-05-24.

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.