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

Name of Center: The Voyage Early Learning Journey **Enrollment:** 95 **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 **Phone Number:** 515-986-6203

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

Date(s) of Visit: 06-05-2020

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:** 06-04-2020

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

Date Inspected: 03-16-2018

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 07-01-2020 to 07-01-2022
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-08-2020

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 6/5/20. The on-site supervisor was present throughout this visit.

All areas of the program were touched upon. These areas touched upon consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. However, the main focus/topic of this year's visit was to discuss health and safety practices as it pertains to the Coronavirus pandemic.

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. There are a total of 11 classrooms and then also an indoor gym.

The owner and director 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 on-site supervisor. Candice has her CDA. Previous to this position, Candice had worked for many years at another center which included time as an assistant director.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a newer center that fills a need in the community.

The center is clean, well lit, and nicely decorated. Staff questioned seemed to have a good understanding of the new protocols related to COVID - 19.

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, Sandbox. 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.

The director and on-site supervisor feel they have good staff and the culture is good overall.

The director is organized.

Individual and informal weekly meetings are held between the director and her classroom staff.

The center has a full-time cook.

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

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: 1
Information lacking: All children regardless of age need to have the names, phone numbers, and addresses of a doctor and dentist on file.

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.
More wood chips are needed on the hill of the playground because the logs are at least 18 inches in height or more from the ground. It was noted that the splash pad is not currently being used because of clogged drains.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years and was last completed 1/11/19 - 1/14/19. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 2/24/20.

The current protocols for COVID - 19 state that all blankets should be kept at the center and not passed back and forth between the parents and center. There are a few children with sensitive skin where blankets are still being passed back and forth and parents are washing with their own detergent. It is recommended parents bring this detergent to the center and the center wash these blankets on site.

This consultant's phone number will need to be changed in the center's emergency preparedness written plan to his new number that changed last July.

Because of COVID - 19, the center has changed their business hours some.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.