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

Name of Center: Zuma Zoo Daycare **Enrollment:** 44 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46951

Street: 108 E Irwin St **City:** Montezuma Iowa **Zip** 50171 **County:** Poweshiek

Mailing Address: PO Box 923, Montezuma, IA, 50171

Director's Name: Alexa Wheaton **Phone Number:** 641-891-1155

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jaicee Snook **E-Mail:** alexa@zumazoodaycare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-19-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 11-10-2019

Comments : 1/2/20 - date of compliance

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	8		18	18	44
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:		
	FULL license from	
X	**PROVISIONAL** license from	10-01-2023 to 10-01-2024
	DENIAL of initial application	
	SUSPENSION of license	
	REVOCATION of license	

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 10-30-2023

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

A Corrective Action Plan is being completed. The center has been referred to CCR&R for ongoing visits and supports. All areas of non-compliance will be addressed and corrections will need to be made.
Alexa, the on site supervisor and staff who work in the infant classroom will be completing professional development courses related to developmentally appropriate infant practices in child care. Alexa and other staff who assist with preparing meals and snack will be completing professional development courses in CACFP and/or other courses in food and meal services in child care.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Zuma Zoo Daycare opened April 2016. The center is located within a single standing building which has a secured entrance. The center serves children ages infancy through ten years. Alexa Wheaton is the owner and director. Alexa has a BA in Elementary Education and prior child care experience. Jaicee Snook is the on site supervisor. She began in this role in February 2020. Jaicee has been employed at the center since 2019.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licenses rules were observed. The center has three program classrooms: an infant classroom, a room that serves children ages two to four and a classroom that serves preschool children and also school age children. A board that had required mandatory postings was laying on the ground in the entrance. The postings were not visible. Lesson plans and schedules are posted in classrooms.

The infant classroom serves children ages 6 weeks up to children turning 2 years. There were eight infants. Two staff were working today. There are a lot of restrictive devices in this classroom. Today, there a few infants that were non-mobile and some that were mobile. One infant was sleeping in a swing. This worker told staff infants can't sleep in devices. The non-mobile infants were in a bouncy seat and a different swing that hangs in a door way. Staff were having a difficult time keeping the mobile infants occupied and away from the non-mobile infants. Staff were telling toddlers to stay away and to watch out for the infants. One toddler pushed another toddler in play and a staff was going to put the toddler in time out. This worker talked to staff about this being not being developmentally inappropriate. This worker encouraged staff to engage and interact with the toddlers as the toddlers were needing direction and support. The room is large and can be separate into two smaller rooms. This worker told staff a recommendation to separate the non-mobile infants and the toddlers was going to be made to Alexa.

There were ten children in the classroom that serves children ages two to four. Two staff were working with this age group. Children were involved in some child directed play time. Children were also observed during naptime.

The preschool classroom initially had eight children, all four year olds, in attendance. There was one staff working with this class. Four children went to preschool at the school so this class then had four children. Children were observed during child directed activities. This class joined the two - four class for naptime.

The center has a kitchen. There is a menu posted at the center's entrance. This menu is the Monetezuma School lunch menu, not the menu of the daycare.
The center previously had an arrangement with the school for lunches. This arrangement stopped and parents have been sending lunches for children since 2022. The center has not been supplementing with credible foods. The center serves water with snacks and at lunch time. The center does not serve milk with any snacks or meals. The center has been serving

breakfast for some children. This worker took several pictures of the kitchen the day of the visit. There was a bin of flavored oatmeal packs that are not credible. There was a bin of crackers. There were a few labeled food items that parents have sent for their children. There were two cans of vegetables in a cupboards. There was a pack of Capri Sun juice boxes which aren't credible. The center has not been serving credible breakfasts or snacks for the children. The center has not serving credible lunches nor ensuring children are eating credible lunches.
This is a repeat violation and a discussion that has this worker has had with Alexa on previous visits.

The center has a fenced in outdoor playground. There is a climbing structure that has adequate surfacing. There is an area for the smaller children. The older children go to the school's playground at times for outdoor play also. Monthly playground inspections have been completed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Alexa has a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. The center is located close to the elementary school.

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

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for:Mandatory reporter requirements.Notice of availability of handbook.Program activities.These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public.
The board with postings was laying on the floor in the entrance. Staff said the board had been laying there for a pretty long time.

109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents.
This posting was not visible the daycare of the visit.

109.4(6): The child care license shall be posted in a conspicuous place and shall state the particular premises in which child care may be offered and the number of children who may be cared for at any one time.
The license wasn't visible on the day of the visit. There was a board that was laying on the ground in the entrance.

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
Some staff are overdue for criminal record checks.

109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center.Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After diapering a child.
A staff didn't wash her hands after a diaper change. The staff prepared a bottle after changing the infant's diaper.

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
An infant's hands were not washed after a diaper change.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Staff in the infant classroom were not managing the infant classroom in a developmentally appropriate manner. Staff had expectations of the toddlers that were not developmentally appropriate.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary

procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
There were a infant climber placed in a corner. Staff had a wood rocking chair placed beside the top of this climber, creating an unsafe fall area for the toddlers.
The climber did not have a mat underneath. These climbers require mats, an appropriate fall pad.

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.
An infant was sleeping in a swing. Staff did not move the infant until this staff stated the infant could not sleep in this device.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
Center has been non-compliant.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Center has been non-compliant.

109.15(4)a: Written policies developed for food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school and is provided to parent at admission.Food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school is monitored and supplemented if necessary to ensure CACFP guidelines maintained.
Center has been non-compliant.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's license is being changed to provisional status as of October 2024.
Alexa stated she would purchase required food for the daycare immediately and become in compliance with meals and snacks immediately.
Alexa stated she would work on compliance issues and work with CCR&R to correct all compliance issues.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

*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.