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

Name of Center: Creative Minds Daycare **Enrollment:** 54 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52259

Street: 1030 S 2nd ST **City:** Cherokee Iowa **Zip** 51012 **County:** Cherokee

Mailing Address: 1030 S 2nd ST, Cherokee, IA, 51012

Director's Name: Tina Olson **Phone Number:** 712-321-3434

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Flaugh **E-Mail:** creativemindsdaycarecherokee@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-28-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-17-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-10-2023

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 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	21	12	9	10	52
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 08-08-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I completed an unannounced visit at this center on 07/28/25. I was able to meet with the owner Rebecca Mosbach. Director Tina Olson was gone on vacation. Ms. Olson has many years of experience working in a daycare center. She also has a 2-year degree in medical assistance. Ms. Olson is well qualified for her role as director. Ms. Mosbach has her Elementary Education degree with Special Education and Child Family Services along with her master's in education for curriculum development. She further has her Instructional Strategist II Learning Disability and Behavioral Disorder endorsement.

The center is in a prior bank building which has been nicely remodeled. The facility has 5 classrooms. The center provides programming for ages 6 weeks to school age. Hours of the program are Monday thru Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm. There are currently 54 children enrolled in the center. At the time of the visit there were 32 children present. The daycare has 5 rooms, an infant, 1yr old room, 2/3 yr room, 4/5yr room, and a school age room.

All areas of the program were observed. These 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 daycare has a lot of natural light creating an inviting environment. They have daily schedules of activities posted which include both active and quiet times that focus on learning a variety of skills including cognitive behaviors and social interaction. The rooms have a nice layout and assist in the flow of activities throughout the day. A good variety of toys and materials were present and observed to be in good repair. I observed good interaction between staff and children in their care. Staff are actively engaged with the children at their level.

The program makes their meals onsite. Meals are portioned out for serving in the classrooms. Food items are stored in a main storage area, as well as limited supplies in classrooms. In addition to the main refrigerators in the storage area, each of the classrooms also have a small refrigerator present. Meals are served in the classroom with the teachers sitting with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits. The center does follow the CACFP guidelines but is not currently on the food program. A menu is posted that indicates a good variety of nutritious meal options.

The center does have established policies and procedures regarding the authorization, administration, documentation, and storage of medications. The center uses both formal medication administration forms for prescription and non-prescription medications. Medications are stored in lock boxes in areas that are not readily accessible to the children First aid kits were present in each classroom and generally stocked with supplies sufficient to address common first aid needs. Good sanitation policies and procedures have been established for the center with staff providing supervision in bathrooms and assisting the children as needed. Policies and schedules are in place for regular cleaning of equipment and play materials. Inspection certificates for the fire marshal, furnace, emergency drills, playground inspections, and a carbon monoxide detector were current and present in the center. Radon testing was completed and in normal range.

The playground area is adjacent to the building with an overhang for shade. The playground has climbing equipment with appropriate surfacing. The equipment is all in good repair.

Creative minds staff has great teamwork and a dedication to continuous improvement, and ability to create thoughtful, engaging learning environments.
Staff have a good partnership with the families of the children in their care and have a good relationship with the community.

Goals of this program is to continue working on their IQ4K level.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center was named Cherokee Business of the year in 2025.

It is well organized in all aspects and very clean.

Staff were observed engaged with the children in their care.

This center has a lot of resources regarding the staff qualifications and contribution to the curriculum

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

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please email licensing consultant confirming that those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards have been corrected

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.