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

Name of Center: Mustangs Child Care **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46117

Street: 223 E 2nd St **City:** Newell Iowa **Zip** 50568 **County:** Buena Vista

Mailing Address: 205 S Clark ST, Newell, IA, 50568

Director's Name: Molly Montag **Phone Number:** 712-272-4147

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jami Sievers **E-Mail:** montagm@newell-fonda.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 07-01-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 06-30-2025

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

Date Inspected: 09-13-2022

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	6	17	20	13	56
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:** 07-15-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On July 1, 2025, I completed an unannounced visit to Mustangs Childcare Center. During the visit, I met with the program director, Molly Montage. Jami Siever, an administrative assistant with the school and is responsible for maintaining personnel files and other administrative records for the program.

The childcare program operates year-round out of a free-standing building and utilizes a shared commons area in the elementary school during the school year for after-school programming. The facility is owned and overseen by the elementary school and provides care to children ranging in age from infancy through school age.
The center is organized into four classroom areas: an infant room serving children from birth to 18 months, a toddler room for children 18 to 36 months, a preschool room, and a school-age area located in the school's common dining space.

All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

Each classroom is divided into activity centers using furniture, shelving, and play structures. These were arranged in a way that avoided blind spots, ensuring clear lines for supervision. A good variety of appropriate toys and materials were observed in each area and found to be in good repair. The infant room had a nice separation of where the cribs were located as well as the area for play. Staff were on the floor and engaged with infants in the room. Diapering was also observed and conducted in accordance with sanitary standards. Safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room.

In addition to first aid kits located throughout the facility, the center maintains an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site. Generally, fire drills and tornado drills are done monthly.
A copy of the planned menu was posted, and food handling and service practices were appropriate. Staff members sat at the tables and ate with the children, providing supervision and modeling healthy eating habits.

Staff were actively engaged with the children during the visit, participating in activities and demonstrating positive interaction skills. The program uses a theme-based curriculum that incorporates creative activities such as artwork, which is displayed in the classroom or sent home to families to enjoy and showcase their child's work. Staff appeared dedicated to the children in their care and demonstrated strong engagement skills. There are schedules of activities posted.

The center has two on-site playground areas. The east side playground features a preschool-sized climbing structure, a riding merry-go-round, and paved areas for active play. There were many riding toys for the children to enjoy. They also have water play. Foam tile surfacing was observed beneath elevated equipment, and all equipment was in good repair. There is an awning outside to provide shade.

In speaking with Molly, one of their goals is to be viewed not just as a daycare center, but a place where children grow and learn and provide a safe environment to do so with staff.
Molly has talked about some of the difficulties they have in the summer when not all the children attend. This center does hold spots for the summer without any payment. This is something that they may want to look at changing to help balance their budget.

I did provide Molly with links for grants to also assist their program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center closed done for a week in the summer to deep clean and do maintenance work that is necessary.

The center is currently working with Child Care Resource and Referral and applying for IQ4K. Molly was very receptive to work with her CCR&R consultant and a referral was made by this worker.

The center has a very positive atmosphere where staff did a great job of engaging children.

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

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

109.9(2)d: 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.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please provide documentation of above-mentioned training by 08/30/25.

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

Please enter all staff trainings in i-PoWer

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.