

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

Name of Center: Joyful Noise Daycare **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22312

Street: 801 8Th St **City:** Grundy Center Iowa **Zip** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 801 8th St, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Jennifer Garcia **Phone Number:** 319-825-4569

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** jnd@gcmuni.net

Date(s) of Visit: 05-14-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-01-2023

Comments : Inspection completed 04-20-23 and compliance approved on 08-01-23

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	22	11	10	5	48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 05-30-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Joyful Noise Daycare on 05-14-25 where I met with the center director, Jennifer Garcia. Jennifer took over the director role in 2024 and is well qualified for the position having extensive experience and on-going training in early childhood care. Jennifer did complete her National Administrator Credential training in 2025. This program is located in the First Presbyterian Church in Grundy Center with the majority of the programming on the lower level and one classroom on the upper level. The center provides daycare programming to infants through school age children. There are currently 37 children enrolled in the program served by 7 teachers. All areas of the center subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general design and layout of the center and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. As noted the program makes use of four classrooms on two levels of the building. The two year old classroom is located on the upper level, and the remaining classrooms serve the other age groups with two infant rooms, and one preschool/school age room on the lower level. There continue to be some minor issues related to maintenance such as peeling paint and plaster damage, but nothing that rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern. The classrooms on the lower level have windows located along the upper edge of the walls which provide natural light. Restrooms are located off the main hallways outside the classrooms on both levels. Sinks are located in both infant rooms, and the 2 - 3 year old classroom to facilitate hand washing and diaper changes. Each room had a refrigerator present for snack items that may require cold holding temperatures to be maintained. All rooms have secondary exits from the classroom with the exception of the young infant room. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum was present in each room.

Good interactions and engagement were observed in each classroom with the teachers following the planned schedule and curriculum. The center uses a general centerwide curriculum plan which is posted at the parent notice board near the main entry. In the infant rooms this included having specific developmental curriculum plans to help focus children on developing skills such as rolling over, sitting up, and walking. In older classrooms this included teacher led large group learning, and small group craft activities. The teachers were also observed to respond to the care needs of the children with providing meals, changing diapers, and addressing behavioral issues. The teachers were observed to use calm engaging tones of voice when speaking to children, and use proactive approaches to behavior management with providing the children reminders of expected behavior, and redirecting children to appropriate behavior choices for those minor issues that did arise. Ratio was maintained as required in each classroom.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and appropriate procedures were followed. Good handwashing practices were observed with staff having children wash their hands before meals, and following restroom use. Chemical cleaners, purses, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas that were not readily accessible to the children. One issue that was noted is that there toys in the older infant room which had small parts that could break off and be a choking hazard and these do need to be removed. Over the counter medications were labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. First aid kits were present and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Safe sleep practices were followed for infants under 12 months of age. The center did have an infant that was identified as being born prematurely and the

child's physician had provided written documentation regarding modified sleep positioning and use of swaddling for health/safety concerns. Good positioning practices were observed for staff feeding infants under 6 months of age holding them in an upright position.

The center is able to make use of the church kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the planned menu was posted and identified a good variety of nutritious meal options but some non-credible options were observed. The meal served on the day of my visit consisted of a ham and cheese sandwich, green beans, fruit, and milk for younger children, but for older preschool age children included a selection of snack chips which would not be credible. Good food storage practices were observed for both dry pantry and refrigerated foods. Good food handling practices were observed with staff washing their hands, and wearing food service gloves. Meals were pre-portioned for the children and measured scoops were used to ensure each child received a full serving. Supervision was provided at the tables when children were eating. One other issue that was observed was that children were allowed into the kitchen to help get plates and milk. While children can assist with setting tables kitchens must be maintained so that children do not have access. Setting materials on or near a table for children to then distribute would be a more acceptable alternative.

The playground was observed and has a variety of dramatic play and climbing structures. The equipment was observed to be good in repair. The center makes use of pea gravel, and rubber mulch for fall surfacing but these have integrated and hard panning of the material has occurred so that the depth of loose fill material is insufficient. The center does need to aerate or supplement the existing material to ensure good depth of loose material is present and children need to be restricted from use of climbing structures that do not have adequate fall surfacing. The playground is fully fenced and the fencing was observed to be in good repair. Shade is provided by the buildings, play structures, and mature trees.

All required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. All child files were reviewed and 1 needed an updated physical. Infant daily logs were observed and staff are not documenting all required information. As a reminder feeding, sleeping, diapering, disposition, and activities are required to be documented for each child under 2 years of age throughout the day. Staff were not including information on the children's mood or activities. All staff files were reviewed and 2 had incomplete background checks, and 4 also needed physicals. Inspection logs and certificates were current and available for all required elements. It is noted that the center does have a Radon mitigation system and testing completed on 05-14-24 showed levels were being maintained in acceptable limits. As a reminder for programs with mitigation systems renewed testing is required every 2 years. The center handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Jennifer has completed her first full year as the center director and has implemented several changes to improve the overall functioning of the program. This includes revising administrative records, completing NAC training, and participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations. The center also a new board of directors which Jennifer stated were younger and more active in seeking to make improvements.

Jennifer stated that the physical facilities have had renovations with new windows on the south side of the building, a new security door, and plans to replace additional windows. Jennifer stated that the center is also hosting a golf tournament as a fund raising project to renovate the playground.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(4): Daily written records are maintained for each child under two years of age and include time periods slept, amount of/time food consumed, time/irregularities of elimination patterns, general disposition, and general summary of activities.
-- Documentation of daily activities and disposition was not maintained as required.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

-- Children were observed to have access to the kitchen area which cannot be allowed. The outdoor playground has

insufficient loose fill fall surfacing around climbing structures and children shall be restricted from using those elements where the product has become compacted until such time that it is aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material.

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.

-- Items and toys with small parts that can easily break off that are less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches length are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the non-licensing 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.