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

Name of Center: Des Moines Christian Early Education **Enrollment:** 165 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27736

Street: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 400 **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50323 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 13007 Douglas Pkwy Ste 100, Urbandale, IA, 50323

Director's Name: Trisha Lux/Cheryl Whitmore **Phone Number:** 515-252-2482

On-Site Supervisor(s): Nikki Dudley **E-Mail:** hhagaman@dmcs.org tlux@dmcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-31-2024

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:** 10-06-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-11-2023

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years, completed by DIAL

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: 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		40	108	122	270
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-19-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 10-31-24. Present for the visit were the co-directors.

This center is owned and operated by Des Moines Christian School. The center is located within the Des Moines Christian School building. The new addition is where the Early Education Center is now located (east side of building) The school age programming uses the new performance hall as well as a separate school age room. There are eight enclosed rooms used for programming space. There is a secured entrance for parents to use. The center serves children from two years through school age.

The center offers full day for preschool and childcare as well as half day options. A half day option for three year old children is offered; A half day option for four year old children is offered; and a half day option for junior kindergarten. The center offers full day programming for all ages during the summer months and provides programming for school age children during the school year when school is not in session, from 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

The center provides after school programming for school age children.

Trisha Lux and Cheryl Whitmore share director responsibilities. Trisha has eight prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications to be the co-director. Cheryl Whitmore is also a co-director. Cheryl has 15 prior years of experience in preschool and childcare settings. She meets qualifications.

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.

Room observations:
The center is using Happily Ever After curriculum with a faith based component. Rooms were in ratio and offer a plethora of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. There is a curriculum director for the school who assists with pre-school programming as well.

The classrooms offer a good variety of activities and toys. The classrooms are clean and organized. Teachers were observed actively engaged in facilitating group activities; where they were responsive and nurturing for the children.

The center uses the schools application (school pass) to keep attendance and communicates with parents via email, fliers or in person.

Nutrition practices: The center contracted with Hy-vee to cater Lunches. Menus of lunches and snacks are in-line with CACFP guidelines (healthy and balanced meals) and are rotated. Lunches/snacks are served family-style in the classrooms by staff.

Health and safety: Medication is stored securely accessible only to staff. There are handwashing signs posted in the rooms; and first aid kits available in each room. Tornado and Fire emergency plans are posted and drills are documented as having been completed monthly as required. Radon was tested in 2021 and will need re-tested in 5 years (completed by the school). The HVAC was inspected however the inspection certificate has not been provided. There is a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway. This center is very clean and nicely organized.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented as completed. The playground area is enclosed by chain link fencing. There are play structures and a shed that houses outside supplies/toys. Shade is provided by play structures. Surfacing is pour in place and cement. The playground was in good condition.

Transportation/Field trips: regular transportation is provided by parents; field trips--center utilizes school bus and driver. A field trip to the pumpkin patch is annual.

Administrative review: Posted were information on mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs. Eight child files were reviewed and contained all required information; Three staff files were reviewed and contained all the necessary information except for a new employee missing the employee-volunteer-substitute statement.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This has nice sized classrooms that are stocked with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate toys and activities.

There is very little turnover with staff and staff are very well educated and trained working well together.

Staff are very invested in the school and are caring and nurturing. The staff have received PBIS training which helps with the behaviors of children in the classrooms. The center also incorporates Conscience Discipline.

The center has a very high retention rate for children going from the preschool program into the school program; and often has a wait list for admission.

Parents report being happy and satisfied with the center.

During the day the director goes into the classroom for what is called King's Kids/along with chapel on Monday mornings.

The center has a strong partnership with the school.

The center has a secure entrance.

The preschool program collaborates with the Kindergarten teachers.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 1

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center offers nice sized classrooms that offer a good variety of activities along with experienced teachers who are invested in the children doing well.

*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.