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

Name of Center: Formative Years Growing and Learning Center **Enrollment:** 72 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16813

Street: 4510 Todd Dr **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50014 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 4510 Todd Dr, Ames, IA, 50014

Director's Name: Amy Parks **Phone Number:** 515-292-3609

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jenny Beck/Julie Childs **E-Mail:** enrollment@formativeyearsglc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-29-2023

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:** 08-04-2022

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

Date Inspected: 09-03-2021

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. This center is undergoing renovations and the fire inspector has been to the center April, 2023 and July 2023 regarding the renovations.

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
Summer					0
General	26	14	58	30	128

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-12-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year licensing visit was conducted 8/29/23. Director Amy Parks was present through the entire visit.

Formative Years first began in this location in 1990. Cindy Kniss purchased the center from the previous owner in March of 2017 and became the new center director and owner. Cindy recently opened another center in the eastern side of Iowa and will spend her time between both locations; she will no longer be listed as the director of this center. Amy Parks is the director of this center, she became the on-site supervisor in 2010 and transitioned into the director role in 2020. Amy has a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies, she has worked for Formative years for 15 years. Amy meets qualifications to be the director. Julie Childs is listed as on-site supervisor at this time. Julie has an Associate's degree in Applied Science and Child Development, she worked at Formative Years for 21 years before becoming the on-site supervisor. Jenny has a Bachelor's degree in Communications, Science and Disorders. She worked for Formative Years for six years before becoming the on-site supervisor and meets the qualifications for an OSS.

The center provides care for children aged 6 weeks to the age of twelve for school age children, Monday through Friday 6:30 AM-6:00 PM. The center provides for a UPK classroom, this is for three hours a day during the school year and then the room is used for wrap around care as well. The center uses the Creative Curriculum in their teachings and uses the Bright Wheel application to communicate with parents.

Room observations: The center has seven classrooms. This center is undergoing moderate renovations with the goal of completing an over-all renovation while still operating safely. Many rooms have updated paint, cabinets, sinks and classroom doors. There is work being completed to provide restroom facilities accessible to toddler rooms and older. The children were observed to be transitioning to a rest period. The classrooms were in ratio. The children appeared content and responsive to the consistent structure in the rooms maintained by staff. The staff were observed to model appropriate behavior and have nurturing responses/corrections. The classrooms did have a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys and activities. The classrooms were organized to provide good ability to supervise in the room.

Nutrition Practices: The center enjoys an on-site kitchen. The Director has stepped in to provide the meal prepping. The children are served family-style meals in their classrooms by staff, who are interacting with the children throughout lunch/cleanup. The center is using menus consistent with CACFP guidelines and rotates the menu every few weeks. The kitchen does open to a school/pre-school age room however is separated by a pony-wall. The kitchen and food storage were observed to be tidy and organized.

Health and Safety: Medications are stored in the directors office securely, accessible by staff only. The center staff and children were observed to be using good handwashing practices. The center has first aid kits readily available. Emergency plans are conspicuously posted and emergency drills are documented to have taken place monthly as required. Radon had been tested June of 2022 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff. The center has furnace checks in January. This center was observed to make good use of space that had been compromised with the renovation process. This center did a good job of soldiering on with renovations while keeping safety of the children paramount. The center as very clean.

Center Playground: This center has a fence around their playground which is divided by ages. The center has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate out-door activities. The play structures are surfaced by pea gravel and there is ample grass for the children to run/play. There is ample natural shade with trees and some artificial shade provided by the building over-hang and a new stand-alone shade in the 3's area playground. Playground checks were documented completely monthly as required.

Transportation: The center owns and maintains vehicles to assist with field trips. They are maintained by Trickle's Tire and Automotive.

Administrative Records: The center has conspicuously posted information regarding mandatory reporter; handbooks, consultant contact, license, non-smoking signs and emergency exit plans for fire/tornado. Ten Child files were reviewed with all required information up-to-date; Seven Staff files were reviewed, with all files reviewed having the required information that was also up-to-date. This center has a well-establish policy and handbook.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a secure entrance.

This center is amidst moderate renovations while continuing to operate safely with the goal of completing a major renovation in early to mid 2024.

There are many long term employees at the center, to include staff who have worked at this center for nearly or over twenty years.

The staff work well together and communicate well; they strive to function well as a team. The staff are flexible and work hard. The owner and Director work well as a team.

The center is using the Bright Wheel app to communicate with parents in real time and post pictures.

The director is very organized and is supportive to staff members and involved in daily operations/interactions with the children.

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

There were not aspect of the operation that fell below the standards of review.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. Radon testing was last completed in June of 2022 All rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

This center was observed to have consistent structure in their rooms; The staff were responsive and nurturing.

*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.