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

Name of Center: The Children's Center **Enrollment:** 114 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 14171

Street: 306 S Vine ST **City:** Jefferson Iowa **Zip** 50129 **County:** Greene

Mailing Address: 306 S Vine ST, Jefferson, IA, 50129

Director's Name: Amy McGinn and Haley Wiggins **Phone Number:** 515-386-2092

On-Site Supervisor(s): Braden Cerveny **E-Mail:** director@thechildrenscenter50129.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-17-2025

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:** 05-30-2025

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

Date Inspected: 02-20-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years. The center will be due for another inspection in early 2026.

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	31	17	57	43	148
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2025 to 07-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-18-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing inspection visit was conducted on 6/17/25. Both directors were present during the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The Children's Place, formerly known as the Greene County Early Learning Center, is a child care center located in Jefferson, IA. The center moved into a brand new building near the previous location in September 2022. The center opened in 2005 and serves children ages two weeks in age to 12 years in age utilizing a combination of different learning curriculums. There are a total of seven classrooms.

Square footage capacity of the seven classrooms in the new building are as followed: 11, 10, 10 (toddler, infant, second infant room); 17 (two year old room); 23 (three year old room); 34 (four and five year old room); and 43 (school-age/swing room).

The center is overseen by a Board. Amy McGinn is the new head director as of 11/2024. Amy has a BA degree as well as a Master's degree. Amy has worked in child care for many years which also includes time spent as a director at another center. Haley Wiggins is the assistant director. Haley has past experience working in child care which includes past experience working in a classroom at this program. Braden Cerveny is the on-site supervisor at this program. Braden has experience and training to meet requirements as the on-site supervisor.

During the inspection visit, children were observed napping in cribs, eating lunch in high chairs and the child-size tables and chairs, washing hands, and lying down on cots getting ready for an afternoon nap. Staff were actively engaged with children and all of their activities. Children and staff questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center moved into a brand new building in September of 2023. There is a new playground area addition and the center

also has a built in generator for any weather/power failure events.

The center participates in the food program (CACFP) . The center's menus are often shared by this consultant as an example for other centers to use.

The center utilizes the electronic app, Playground, for increased communication with parents, daily sheets, etc.

The head director has her NAEYC accreditation/membership. Several staff also participate in the TEACH program and WAGES.

The center provides a certain brand of formula to infants free of charge at parents requests.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The directors participate in roughly quarterly director meetings in the surrounding area.

There is a secure entrance into the program. Security cameras are also in place.

There continues to be a good mix of tenured and new staff. The directors feel that overall, staff work well together. Staff pictures are also posted by the entrances to classrooms.

There is a staff lounge and lactation room for mothers.

Enrollment has greatly increased over the past year.

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.
One new staff who started within the past month has not yet been fingerprinted. This is required prior to employment starting or at least being scheduled a day or two prior to starting. THIS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS WEEK, PER THE DIRECTOR.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child was past due for an annual update. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child’s school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2 children were missing current physicals in their files. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.9(2)f: All files contain parent authorization for attendance at center-sponsored field trips and non-center activities.
If an inclusive authorization form for activities is used, a copy is kept on file at the center.
Number not in compliance with center-sponsored trips: 2
Number not in compliance with non-center activities:: 0

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
For fever reducing medications for children under age two, medicine bottles stated a doctor's authorization is also needed and these were missing. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH FOR SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THINGS.

109.10(15)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.
December 2024 fire and tornado drills were not recording. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE NOW FOR THREE YEARS IN A ROW, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOTED ALL OTHER DRILLS WERE CONDUCTED SO THIS IS IMPROVED, BUT

STILL AN ISSUE.

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.
There were some issues with the playground:
1. The zip ties holding items in place on the fence need to be cut. They are too long.
2. One Little Tyke slide was not on approved surfacing.
3. Many of the rubber tiles have pea gravel underneath them causing the rubber tiles to bow and create tripping hazards.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
1. The school-age room needs to have a full-day schedule posted.
2. A four/five year old classroom was missing a daily schedule.
3. The weekly lesson plan was not available in the three year old classroom.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Nothing should be stored or kept on the diapering tables at any time other than items needed for diapering. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE INSPECTION VISIT.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 11/10/23 - 11/14/23. All but one classroom came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. The center is working with a radon mitigation specialist about the room that came back higher than 4.0. Because there was one classroom that came back with radon levels higher than the 4.0 cutoff, the center will remain on an every two year testing period for now.
THE CENTER HAS CONTINUED TO WORK WITH A RADON MITIGATION SPECIALIST. A RADON MITIGATION SYSTEM IS BEING INSTALLED ON 8/12/25. THE CENTER WILL RETEST AFTER THIS IS INSTALLED. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO TEST LABOR DAY WEEKEND OR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND. ALL CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE RETESTED AND LEVELS NEED TO BE BELOW THE 4.0 CUTOFF. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE CENTER WILL REMAIN ON A TWO-YEAR TEST TIMEFRAME.

The last annual heating/cooling inspection was completed on 11/5/24.

It was previously noted that the center primarily takes walking field trips around the surrounding area. If a field trip is schedule that is not within walking distance, the center contacts with the school district for a driver and bus.

I - Power was again discussed at the inspection visit. Several staff need to upload annual training into their I - Power profiles.

Cots should be sanitized daily on the corners/touch areas.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. However, a Corrective Action Plan is also requested within 10 days of the center receiving this report in regards to how the below standards will be corrected and maintained.

*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.