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

Name of Center: North Ridge School Age Child Care **Enrollment:** 55 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26456

Street: 400 NW 27th ST **City:** Grimes Iowa **Zip** 50111 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: PO Box 49, Grimes, IA, 50111

Director's Name: Cindy Armstrong **Phone Number:** 515-210-7978

On-Site Supervisor(s): Maddie Sedrel - Kleen, Traci Gafford, and Sommer Pane **E-Mail:** cindya@grimesdaycare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-03-2025

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 03-20-2025

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

Date Inspected: 08-12-2024

Comments : Grimes/Johnston Fire Marshal. Inspections are required at least every three years per State regulations.

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.) 2 Years 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	0	0	0	90	90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-04-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/3/25. On-site supervisor, Maddie Sedrel - Kleen, was present throughout 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.

North Ridge School Age Child Care is located in Grimes, IA in the North Ridge Elementary School. The center is owned/operated by Cindy Armstrong. Children who reside in the Dallas Center - Grimes School District can attend this center. Some enrolled children attend North Ridge. Other children attend school at either South Prairie, Dallas Center Elementary, or Heritage and then are bused to North Ridge.

This center serves school-age children during the hours of 6:45am-8:00am and/or 3:15pm-5:30pm during the school year (Wednesdays are early out days and hours of operation are 1:00pm - 5:30pm). During the summer months and no school days, the center is open from 6:45am-5:30pm. The center primarily uses the cafeteria, but they also have access to the gym (located next to the cafeteria) and the outdoor play area. During the summer months, the center utilizes the Magic School Bus Learning Curriculum.

As stated above, Cindy Armstrong is the owner/director of this program. Cindy has worked in child care for many years and meets the qualifications as director. Maddie Sedrel - Kleen, Traci Gafford, and Sommer Pane are the on-site supervisors. All on-site supervisors meet the qualifications for their positions.

During the visit, staff were doing roll call and taking attendance. Later, children were observed outside on the playground. Staff were spaced out as well on the playground among the different groups of playing children and had their first-aid backpack with them. Children 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 has a good working relationship with the school.

When children arrive, roll call is taken to ensure all children present are accounted for and to document any absences. Attendance is taken several times throughout children's stay at the center. This was observed during the visit.

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment remains steady.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together.

The center continues to incorporate technology into their teachings as well as center practices.

The center has indoor gym space when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

Weekly staff meetings are held. Some of these meetings are more informal in nature, but communication between staff, directors and owners is stressed. The annual handbook/emergency plans were recently reviewed by all staff.

Staff and children files were nicely organized.

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

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.
1. There were some dangling cords observed in the cafeteria. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE VISIT.
2. The school put in a new fence around the perimeter of the playground. The bolts along the fence and on the gates will need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is exempt from environmental testing as they only serve school-age children and in the children's school.

The center contracts with the school for a school bus driver and bus for all field trips that are not within walking distance. Field trips are only taken during the summer months.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload their training certificates and hours.

This consultant's most current posting was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.