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

Name of Center: Tamarack Discovery School **Enrollment:** 17 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51928

Street: 14 S. Linn Street **City:** Iowa City Iowa **Zip** 52240 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Katie Christiansen **Phone Number:** 319-899-8835

On-Site Supervisor(s): Liz Ernst **E-Mail:** katie@tamarackschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-07-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

X **New Application** **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-26-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-05-2022

Comments : Does Comply.

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 X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care X 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			12	48	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 12-07-2022

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

I arrived at Tamarack Discovery School for an annual visit on 12/7/2022. The center is nonprofit. The center provides childcare to children preschool aged to school aged children. The center has 17 children enrolled. The center is open Monday-Friday 7:00am-5:30pm.

The center is inside of a commercial building. The center uses four classrooms, a kitchen, offices and an outdoor play area. The center's fire inspection was completed on 8/5/22.

The director is Katie Christiansen. She started in 8/2021. Katie has a Master's Degree in Principalship Administration with a Special Education Endorsement. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

The onsite supervisor is Liz Ernst. Liz started in 8/2020. Liz has a Bachelor's Degree in Child Life Specialist.

The center's curriculum is teacher created. The preschool program uses Jolly Phonics and Origins.

The center offers morning snack and afternoon snack. Parents provide their child's lunch.

The center offers field trips. They have gone to Wild Cat Den, Harvest Preserve, Hickory Hill, Terry Trueblood, Woodpecker Trail, Squire Point, museums, library, parks, and Maquoketa Caves.

All program space was observed. The areas observed included: classroom safety/activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observations, field trip/transportation practices, and file/policies/notebook review.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center's website is: https://www.tamarackschool.org/
-Katie and Liz have educational degrees and years of experience in child care/education.
-Classrooms are clean, nicely organized and welcoming to those who enter.
-The center offers a lot of outdoor time.
-The center's curriculum is play based and student lead.
-The center engages their community a lot. They have partnered with Bur Oaks, Iowa City Public Library, Johnson County Refuge, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Resilient and Sustainable Future for Iowa City.
-The center has access to a large playground. They also have access to The Center (large cafeteria, music room, and yoga studio).

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.

-The center needs to ensure that blind cords are inaccessible to the children.
-Keurig pots cannot be accessible to children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The following agencies are available to provide consultation, support, and educational opportunities:

CACFP: https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program
Child Care Resource and Referral: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
Early Childhood Iowa: https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
First Children's Finance: https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/
Healthy Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants
Iowa AEYC: http://www.iowaaeyc.org/
Iowa After School Alliance: https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/
Iowa State University: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/early-childhood
4c's of Johnson County: https://www.iowa4cs.com/

*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.