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

Name of Center: Mahaska Early Learning Program **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25017

Street: 1521 Green Street **City:** Oskaloosa Iowa **Zip** 52577 **County:** Mahaska

Mailing Address: 414 N 3rd St, Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Director's Name: Meagan McCartie **Phone Number:** 641-676-7700

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cheyenne Patton, Cristi Parker **E-Mail:** meagan.mccartie@mahaskaymca.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-12-2023

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:** 02-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-24-2021

Comments : due annually, performed by Mark Neff Oskaloosa Fire Department and SFM Curt Seddon

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 X Other 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	32	28	65	50	175
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 02-01-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Mahaska Early Learning Program is a newly constructed childcare center serving children infants to school age. The program was formerly housed in 2 separate buildings in Oskaloosa/University Park, but is now combined. It is located on the same campus as the elementary school in a residential area of Oskaloosa. The program also operates a summer school age child care program. The childcare center is owned and operated by Mahaska County YMCA. The director is Meagan Hugen. Ms. Hugen was promoted from on site supervisor of the Mahaska County Kids Korner site to Director of all Mahaska County YMCA childcare programs in 2018. Since three of the programs have combined she now directs this site only. The center has multiple On Site Supervisors. Ms. Hugen is typically present in the building as is OSS Campbell. She was an onsite supervisor for Head Start for almost 2 years prior to taking this position. Ms. Taylor has a BA and is serving as an OSS.

Summer care is provided for school age children. The rooms utilized for this program are 4 year old SWVPP during the school year. The building is shared by SWVPP programs provided by the Oskaloosa School District and Mahaska County Head Start (serving 3 year old children).

On 1/12/23 I made an unannounced off year visit to Mahaska County YMCA Daycare and Preschool and met with Director Hugen, Kaye Betz and On Site Supervisors Taylor, Parker and Campbell. At the time of the visit, staff were actively engaged in providing the full day child care program to the children. All program areas were observed.

The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. Another focus/topic of this year's visit was to discuss health and safety practices as they pertain to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed:

Meals are served family style in the cafeteria being constructed in 2022. The kitchen staff for the Y prepare meals for this program and a Head Start program also utilizing the building. The kitchen is across from the cafeteria and contains newer equipment, sufficient storage for center food, and sufficient dish washing capacity to accommodate a program of this size. Posted menus indicate minimum nutritional requirements are being met. The program is participating in the CACFP program.

If children have food allergies kitchen staff are aware and have diet modification forms.

Center Health and Safety:

The center administers prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. The center currently has appropriate documentation for medication or children with allergies. We reviewed compliance with regulations regarding staff and child hand washing, storage and maintenance of a first aid kit, emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado, environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary

detection equipment, and general regulations regarding safety and sanitation policies and procedures.

Carbon monoxide detectors are present. Radon testing will be conducted in February. It should indicate 4 pCi/L or under or further measures will have to be taken. Updated testing is due every 2 years. The program is now exempt from lead based paint assessments since the new building was constructed after 1978.

Ventilation and lighting are adequate. The center meets the rule stating 1 restroom for 15 children. Each restroom is equipped with ventilation.

The program is secured by a locked door. Parents must ring a door bell and be buzzed in.

Ratio was met and maintained throughout the visit. Staff supervised assigned children.

The program has access to a gross motor area down the hall from the classrooms. The area has attached restrooms.

Center Playground:

The center has a new fenced outdoor play area immediately beside the center. The area features commercial climbing equipment. Shade is provided by trees and the building. The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized to assess whether outdoor play is appropriate due to questionable weather conditions. The CCNC may conduct an Injury Prevention Checklist. The center also has a large indoor gross motor area accessible to children throughout the day. Children must have 75 square feet of space each when engaged in gross motor activity indoors or outdoors.

The center typically documents outdoor play inspections monthly per my observation of such. First aid kits, emergency contacts and emergency medication are taken outdoors with the classes.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The center does not provide transportation. Walking field trips are not being taken at this time. Groups may take walks around campus which is not considered a field trip. If classes choose to walk around campus emergency contacts and medications are taken along.

Center Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by redirection, positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior. The center is in compliance with regulations regarding required notices and postings and required written policies provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook.

Staff and child records were examined during this inspection. Staff and child records are mostly complete and well organized. Staff physicals are behind for a couple of staff. Universal Precautions and Mandatory Reporter training are up to date.

Age appropriate curriculum is utilized daily. Lesson plans are available for review.

Child physicals and immunizations are kept by Kaye Betz. Medical and dental information, pick up authorizations and emergency contacts are present. The center is working with parents to ensure updated physicals are acquired as they near expiration.

Emergency Preparedness training is due annually and has been completed for the new site. The center has a thorough Emergency Preparedness Plan. Staff sign and date acknowledgement of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is large enough that at least 1 floater should be present during program hours at all times to give staff breaks. Either and OSS or the Director are present to ensure this occurs.

Center violations and complaints have decreased since Ms.Hugen has directed childcare programs for the Mahaska YMCA.

The center has support from the Mahaska County YMCA.

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

1. 109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. Number not in compliance: 4

Two staff physicals have been turned in since the DHS visit.

2. 109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted. The Director agreed to test for radon within 2 weeks. As of 1/30/23 the tests are now on site and will be set out the first week of February.

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.

IDHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant with IDPH. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Jamie Crouse is the Child Care Nurse Consultant (Iowa Department of Public Health) in cooperation with the American Home Finding Association who serve this center. The center is responsible for contacting Ms. Beach for consultation regarding health and safety issues such as hand washing, outdoor play area regulations, toppling or tipping hazards, etc....

IDHS recommends the center consult with Child Care Resource and Referral. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org. Your Consultant is Karen Lauer. She is available to assist with questions or concerns related to curriculum, supervision, transitions, behaviors, etc...

*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.