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

Name of Center: Mercy Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 247 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27903

Street: 1150 6th Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50314 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1150 6th Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50314

Director's Name: Michelle Meusburger **Phone Number:** 515-643-9090

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Williamson, Brandi Ritter, Keisha Lottie **E-Mail:** mcdc@brighthorizons.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-04-2024

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:** 12-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-16-2024

Comments : Fire inspections due at least every three years, completed by Des Moines Fire Dept.

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 X 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	104	36	86	29	255
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-19-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 11-4-24 and the director was present for the entire visit.

Mercy Child Development Center contracted with Bright Horizons to provide daycare management services in June 2009. Mercy Hospital retained ownership of the center, which also retained its name. The hospital continues to provide meal and laundry services. Bright Horizons provides human resource and management services. Mercy Child Development Center will continue to provide child care services for Mercy Hospital employees. This center is also open to the community.

Michelle Meusburger is the director. Michelle has been the director at this center since December 2016. Michelle has been with Bright Horizons since 2008 and was the director at another Bright Horizons center prior to coming to Mercy CDC. She has a BA in Children and Family Services. . Brandi is the administrative assistant, starting in this role in October of 2021. Brandi has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and three prior years working at this center prior to taking this position. Heather Williamson is the on-site supervisor, starting in this role in October of 2022. Heather has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and six prior years of experience. The Bright Horizons' Regional Manager is Sarah Stevens.

Center hours are from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

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

Room observations/Activities:
The center has 17 classrooms (15 are open), providing care at this time to children age 6 weeks to age five. Previously, the center provided care to school age children for a school age camp, however they have not provided this for several years.

The center uses the Discovery Driven Learning Curriculum, components of the Creative Curriculum, and Emerging Curriculum. Bright Horizons is creating their own assessment tool, similar to Teaching Strategies Gold. Teachers create lesson plans to fit the children's development. Staff were in ratio. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. Staff were responsive and nurturing with the children. Staff were observed to model good handwashing practices and assisted the children with handwashing. The center has worked to refresh bathrooms and other frequently used areas like counter tops. They were clean and provided the necessary toiletries.

The center has recently added a component of emotional self-regulation to the curriculum which the director states has been positive and that there had been positive parent feedback.

Nutrition practices: There is an on-site food preparation area . Dedicated Kitchen staff puts together additional fruits/vegetables and snacks. The hospital provides the main meal. The menus appear in-line with CACFP guidelines (national guidelines for healthy/balanced meals) and rotate every 4 weeks. Meals/snacks are served family-style in the

rooms.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securely. Handwashing posters are seen throughout the center. First aid kits are in the rooms. Tornado/Fire emergency plans are posted. Fire/Tornado Drills are documented as completed monthly as required. Mercy facilities staff assist in the process at times (building wide system). Radon testing was complete 3/2022 and fell below 4.0. There is a new air handler in the buildings HVAC system that is maintained by Mercy Hospital facility staff. Vents were also replaced. There are carbon monoxide detectors on each floor.

Playground: Playground checks were documented having been completed monthly as required. There is an outdoor play area that is enclosed with composite privacy fencing. Safety surfacing with rubber chips. There are play structures that appear in good condition. There is natural shading available throughout the outdoor play area. There is also an indoor play area that offered large motor play when the weather did not permit outdoor play.

Transportation/Field trips: There is not transportation provided.

Administrative review: Information regarding mandatory reporter, Handbook accessibility; consultant contact, license, emergency plans and no-smoking signs were conspicuously posted as required. Ten child files were reviewed and contained all required information; Seven employee files were reviewed; with one file indicating an employee did have a physical, however a physical is required prior to hire and this physical was completed after hire. This program has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Michelle has many years of experience with Bright Horizons.

The center continues to offer families a flexible schedule to accommodate their changing work hours. The center offers full and part time care.

The center has many long term staff, with staff who have worked at the center for over 5, 10 even over 20 years.

The center uses an app called my Bright Day which allows for real time information for families and immediate communication. The center also sends resources to parents through the app for all age groups and expand on the curriculum and learning.

The center has started conducting family events again, with a graduation party on the playground and a curriculum night.

The center has a liaison with the hospital and they conduct monthly meetings. The center has a strong working relationship with the hospital.

The center offers STEM enrichment activities for the children.

The center has strong parent partnerships and has good communication with their families.

The staff are dedicated and committed to the center and providing safe, nurturing and quality care to the children.

The administrative team work well together.

The center offers conferences twice a year, on the month of the birthday for the child and the month of their half birthday.

The center has a secure entrance.

The Bright Horizons corporation increased wages periodically.

The center has renovated restrooms and continues to refresh/replace other frequently used surfaces like counters, sinks etc.

The Bright Horizons corporation has shown a commitment to staff.

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

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. One

employee provided a physical, however this occurred after employment and physical are required prior to employment in the center.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A new full 2 year license is recommended. `

Mercy hospital provides lunch for the children and US Foods supplies breakfast, snack and dinner and menus are consistent with healthy/balanced meals/snacks.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last conducted radon testing in March of 2022 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The center has moved to online child files, however keeps a hard copy of the emergency enrollment form.

*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.