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

Name of Center: ISU Child Development Lab School **Enrollment:** 39 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16971

Street: 2222 OSBORN DR STE 351 **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50011 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 2222 OSBORN DR STE 351, Ames, IA, 50011

Director's Name: Eileen Canafax **Phone Number:** 515-294-3040

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Burno **E-Mail:** ecanafax@iastate.edu

Date(s) of Visit: 09-12-2023

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:** 06-01-2022

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

Date Inspected: 05-13-2022

Comments : Fire marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	12	26	52		90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-16-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 9/12/23. Director Eileen Canafax, and Parent Coordinator (OSS), Heather Bruno were present for the entire visit.

The ISU Child Development Lab School is a teaching and research child care program that opened in this location in 2000 (had moved from another building). This is a year-round program provides traditional childcare for children who are infants up to age five and is open 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday during the school year and 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (M-F) during the summer. This center is open to the community as well as students/families of the University. Current Enrollment is around XXXX.

Eileen Canafax is the director, starting in this position in July of 2022. Eileen has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree in Child Development. Eileen has vast experience in the field of childcare and education, she has previous experience as a Director and Assistant Director in other programs. The Parent Coordinator (OSS) is Heather Bruno. Heather has held the parent coordinator position since December, 2022. She has a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and Master of Arts/Teacher as a leader. Heather has worked for this center for 16 years prior to being promoted. Both meet the qualifications.

All areas of the program were observed on 9/12/23. 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 Observation/Activities: The center is located in the Palmer Building and is open to the public, but the child care program is in a locked area and only authorized people can enter without ringing the buzzer. Rooms were observed in ratio. There are four rooms used for the program. They use continuity of care which means a child will have the same peers and the same teacher for three years as the children and teacher move together through the different age classrooms. All rooms were observed to be clean/organized with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys/activities. Staff were observed to model good handwashing practices and having the children wash as well. The rooms all have a good source to natural light, supplemented by ambient interior light. The rooms all provide easy access to the playground. The center uses Teaching Strategies Gold for curriculum and the Bright Wheel Application to communicate with families.

Nutritional Practices: The center has an on-site kitchen and provides AM/PM Snacks. ISU dining provides lunch. The menu is on a 4-week rotation and is in-line with CACFP guidelines. The meals are prepared either by ISU Dining or in the kitchen and served family style in the classrooms by staff.

Health and Safety practices: Medications are securely stored in classrooms. All full-time staff are medication administration certified. Handwashing signs are posted and staff were observed modeling and directing the children into good handwashing techniques. The center has several first aid kits. Emergency plans are posted as required. Emergency Tornado and Fire drills were documented having been completed monthly. Radon testing was completed 2/2023 with results indicating levels under <4.0 cutoff. This building is maintained by ISU maintenance staff. This center was clean

and had the necessary toiletries.

Playground: The playground is enclosed and divided by ages of the children. The center has a large playground, which incorporates and encourages natural play with a variety of activities available, such as a reading nook under one of the trees; a sand and mud box and other imaginative play areas. There is natural shade and natural surfacing. The playground is set to receive some additional soil to cover some large tree roots and additional mulch. The eves on the building have been sand-blasted to clean them recently. Some of the fencing that had been in need of repair has now been updated. There was one area with some older wood with a nail protruding that the Director would have maintenance repair/remove.

Transportation/field trips: no transportation provided at this time.

Administrative Records: The center has posted information regarding mandatory reporter, hand book accessibility, consultant contact, license along with fire/tornado exit plans and non-smoking signs. Four child files were reviewed and found to have the required information. Four employee files were reviewed with two found to be in need of universal precautions training. The center is in the process of moving files to electronic filing and were organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center received their NAEYC reaccreditation that expires in 2027.

The center is a Level 4 in IQ4k and is in the process of submitting application to be level 5.

There are licensed teachers in each of the classrooms, four of the teachers have a Master's degree. Two teachers are currently working toward their Master's degree.

There are many long term staff at the center, with staff being there from 10-20+ as well as staff at 5 years, 6 years and 8 years. The staff are invested in the program and view this as a career, not a job.

There are observation areas for each classroom.

The center works well with the University. The center is able to partner with professors at the University who can assist with behaviors in the classrooms and give guidance.

The children are happy.

There is a secure entrance to the center. The center had upgraded their video and audio system.

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

There were not aspects of the operation that were observed to fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the food program and their menus reflect they are following the CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing on 2/7/23. All rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center does not have a fuel burning furnace.

This center was granted an exception to policy in 2006 to allow for the implementation of continuity of care and mixing age groupings, including in the infant room. The center requested the same exception to policy last year which was granted. The Director recently sent in another exception to policy request for this year which was granted in June of 2023. This exception expires May, 2024 and the center will be required to re-apply.

Discussion took place regarding a nail protruding from some landscaping; which the director indicated a request for repair was submitted and pictures were provided that a repair had been completed.

*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.