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

Name of Center: Foundations Learning Center **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51521

Street: 56829 US Highway 30 **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 56829 US Highway 30, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Elizabeth Schmidt **Phone Number:** 515-206-9068

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jewel Heubner/Darcy Smalley **E-Mail:** director@foundationsames.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-21-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-14-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-21-2021

Comments : Fire 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 NAEYC NSACA Other X 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	16	16	25		57
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-04-2023

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 11-21-23. Jewell, the On-Site Supervisor was present for the entirety of the visit.

Foundations Learning Center was given Permission to Open on 8/23/21. This center is a non-profit center and has a Board of Directors. The center is located in a wing of the Cornerstone Church. Elizabeth (Betsy) Schmidt is the Director of the center. Betsy has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education as well as a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family Services. Betsy has almost 5 years of prior experience in a childcare setting. Jewel Heubner is the On-Site Supervisor. Jewel has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and five years of experience, part time hours, in a childcare setting. In January of 2022, the center added an additional On-Site Supervisor, Darcy Smalley. Darcy has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family services, as well as an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. Darcy has 11 prior years of experience in childcare. All three meet qualifications for their positions.

Currently the center is providing care to children ages 6 weeks up to 5 years of age and center hours are 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday.

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: There are four rooms being used by the center and the center uses Teaching Strategies Gold for curriculum in every classroom. Lesson plans are completed weekly. The pro-care application is used to communicate with parents. There were ample age/developmentally appropriate centers and activities in each room. Staff were observed to model proper handwashing technique. The center uses soap water, bleach water and water to clean/sanitize. Staff were consistently observed being responsive and nurturing to the children. Structure was maintained in the rooms. There was discussion regarding the need to deeply and thoroughly clean the changing tables, including under changing mats as several changing table did have visible debris under the mats and were in need of cleaning.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen that is shared with the church. There is dedicated kitchen staff that prepare meals and snack. The center in part of the food program; and menus, which are rotated every four weeks are in-line with CACFP guidelines. The on-site supervisor crafts the menus. Meals and snacks are served family-style in the classrooms by staff, younger children are "pre-plated" due to developmental stages but still served in the rooms. The kitchen was clean, organized and had storage spaces also neatly organized.

Health and safety: Medications, including emergency medications are stored securing in each classroom. All classrooms contained a first aid kit. Handwashing posters were observed. Emergency Fire/Tornado plans are posted in each room and emergency drills are documented to have been completed monthly, with the exception of June 2023 fire drill--which was not completed. Discussion was had regarding the cleaning process for changing tables as documented above, otherwise this center is clean and organized.

Playground: The center has access to the indoor gym for large motor play activities. The center has an outdoor playground space which is enclosed with chain link fencing. There are two good-sized play structures and a shade structure. Safety surfacing is wood chips. The playground was in good repair.

Transportation/Field Trips: NA

Administrative review: Mandatory reporter information, Handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and no-smoking signs were all posted as required. Five child files were reviewed; with one file missing an updated physical exam. Three staff files were reviewed and all three were missing the employee-volunteer-substitute statement which was discussed. This center has an established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has strong enrollment and provides drop-in and care on short-notice.

The parents are supportive of the center and appreciative of the staff and care their children receive. The center receives positive feedback from parents.

The children are happy at the center. The rooms are set up well with age appropriate activities and furniture/equipment.

The center received an IQ4K rating of 1 star, based on a 1-5 scale. The Center is working to attain a 3 star under IQ4K quality rating.

The center is working with and partnering with AEA and CCR&R.

The Board of Directors is a strong support for the center.

The staff work well together and are a strong team.

The center has weekly staff meetings.

The Director and On-Site supervisors work well together and are a strong administrative team.

The center will participate in the WAGES program and will be starting the TEACH program.

The Ames library comes out monthly to read to the children.

The center closes for two weeks in December to give staff time off and a holiday break.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 3
There was a need for staff to review and sign statements which was discussed with administration.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1

Physical exams are required yearly.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

There was visible debris on the changing mats and particularly underneath them; careful, diligent and thorough cleaning and sanitization of the changing tables are necessary to prevent spread of communicable illnesses.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's menus reflect the center is following the CACFP guidelines. The center is on the food program.

Reminders for monthly fire/tornado and playground checks were discussed during this visit.

The staff were consistently observed to be engaged in caring for the children, provided nurturing responses while maintaining good structure in the rooms.

*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.