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

**Name of Center:** Dr Clifford C Smith Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 33 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 31128

**Street:** 626 Main ST **City:** Mc Gregor Iowa **Zip** 52157 **County:** Clayton

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 361, Mc Gregor, IA, 52157

**Director's Name:** Jennifer McCullick **Phone Number:** 563-873-2992

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Jennifer McCullick **E-Mail:** drsmithchildcare@mflmm.k12.ia.us

**Date(s) of Visit:** 11-16-2023

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:** 11-02-2023

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

**Date Inspected:** 12-04-2023

**Comments :** Compliance on 12/06/23

**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 X 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 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 38 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| 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:** Becky Frost **Date:** 12-14-2023

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 11/16/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Dr. Clifford C. Smith Childcare Center in McGregor. I met with Jennifer McCullick, the director. Ms. McCullick started with the program in October 2019 and became the director in May 2022. She has an AAS in early childhood education. She was previously an infant room teacher. The center employs thirteen staff members.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. It is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm and it serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 33 children enrolled.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room, toddler room (two and younger three- year-olds), and a preschool room. School-aged children use the preschool room when they are present during the school year. During the summer months the school age children are cared for at the elementary school in town. This program is also licensed by DHH. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects. The toddler room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the toddler and preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computer, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Most materials were in good condition. There is a vinyl slide with multiple cushions in the preschool room. This has several tears so it is unable to be properly sanitized. Ms. McCullick states she would throw it out. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses a variety of resources to plan activities for the children. They keep a binder for the month that has all the activities organized for each day. The rooms did not have written lesson plans. Each room should have a written lesson plan available for review.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Post the emergency diagram near the door to the outside in the preschool room. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in October 2022. The results in the preschool room were above the EPA guidelines with a level of 4.3 pCi/L. Ms. McCullick did a long term test in the preschool room. The results of the long term test and the first results of the other rooms were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway near the infant room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/04/23, with compliance on 12/06/23.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Sally Schneider is the cook. She has been with the program for two years. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. MFL MarMac Intermediate School prepares some of the lunch items and delivers them to the center. The school nutritionist makes a new menu each month for the center and provides the center a new breakfast, lunch and snack menu each month. The childcare center prepares breakfast and snacks and the lunch items that are not provided by the school. Meals are served in the classroom and dishes are returned to the kitchen. Teachers dish out the food and serve it to the children.

The kitchen is clean and organized. There is a dishwasher and three sinks available to wash dishes using the three-step method. There are two refrigerators and a chest freezer. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Menus are posted. Ms. Schneider has taken the Serv Safe training.

In the infant room the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed.

Owlets are used in the infant room if the parents request this. There are currently no children using them. The ProCare app is used to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two-years-old.

The center is using Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. Bleach is used to disinfect the changing tables. I discussed diaper changing procedures with staff members and proper procedures are followed.

Cots are used to nap in the rooms for the older children.

In the infant room there was a child sleeping with a blanket. The center thought this was allowed with a doctor's note. There was a doctor's note above the crib stating the child could sleep with a blanket at the parent's request. Blankets cannot be used in cribs even with a note from the doctor. Any note from a doctor must include a medical reason for the blanket to be used with an end date. Blankets cannot be used only because a parents want one in the crib. This will not be cited since the center thought the doctor note allowed this.

I discussed over the counter medications, such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen with the infant room staff. They do not have any children on this medication currently, but were giving it to the children when parents brought it in. I informed staff members that most of these medications require a doctor's note for the dosage for children under the age of two years old and they could not provide the children these medications without a note from the doctor.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The outdoor play area is naturalistic. There are two fenced in areas, one for the older children and one for the toddlers. There is a playhouse, picnic tables and benches. There are two slides built into a hill. There is a second small hill in the area as well. There was a slide in the area for older children that had a fall height of greater then eighteen inches and requires fall surfacing. This slide should be removed. There is a path for riding toys and helmets are used. There is a sandbox with a cover. There are music centers and chalkboards for the children. There is also an area for vegetable and flower gardens. Shade is provided by trees and there is a small shelter structure available.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in good condition but one staff member did not have documentation for on-going training hours in 2021 and 2022. Staff members must complete six hours of on-going training every year.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

The staff members had great interaction with the children and had great teamwork with one another. Child friendly music was playing in the classrooms. In the toddler room, staff members were assisting the children with brushing their teeth after snack. Staff members were nurturing to children who were upset. Items that children put in their mouths were removed to be sanitized. Staff members held children on their laps and read books to the children. They had great knowledge of the children's routines. In the preschool room, the teacher has a detailed notebook for ideas of what to do and information about each child in case the lead teacher is gone. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. McCullick states the center has a good group of lead teachers.

Ms. McCullick states all the staff members are caring individuals who put the needs of the children first. The children love to come to the center every day.

The center is working toward an IQ4K level 1. She has a good working relationship with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

The program uses the Pro Care system to communicate with parents and for parents to check their children in and out of the center.

There are pictures of staff members and children in the hallway. The hallway is also decorated with the children's artwork.

The program operates out a secured building and they have cameras in each room and the hallway. They can record. There is also a camera to record the playground.

Ms. McCullick states the librarian visits the preschool every Thursday. During the summer or when weather allows the children will walk to the library.

Ms. McCullick maintains organized and easy to read staff and children files which I truly appreciate.

Ms. McCullick keeps detailed playground inspections which outlines the needs of the area.

A school nutritionist from MFL MarMac Community School District prepares all the menus each month.

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

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The rooms did not have written lesson plans. Each room should have a written lesson plan available for review.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

There was a delay in getting the report done because I was waiting for an updated fire marshal inspection.

*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.