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

Name of Center: Funshine Learning Center **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25941

Street: 423 N Walnut St **City:** Lamoni Iowa **Zip** 50140 **County:** Decatur

Mailing Address: 423 N Walnut St, Lamoni, IA, 50140

Director's Name: Heather Neal **Phone Number:** 641-784-7505

On-Site Supervisor(s): Marissa Cunningham **E-Mail:** funshine@mediacombb.net

Date(s) of Visit: 08-20-2024

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:** 06-24-2024

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

Date Inspected: 07-07-2023

Comments : conducted by State Fire Marshall Curt Seddon, due every 3 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 X Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	28	25	34	25	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 08-21-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Funshine Learning Center has been licensed since 1995. The center is a one story metal framed building in a residential area of Lamoni. The program is the only licensed centers in Lamoni. Heather Neal became the new director of Funshine in January 2019. Ms. Neal has a BS in Children and Family Services from Iowa State University. She has had several years of experience in child care or child care like settings since 2001. Ms. Neal worked as a staff member at Funshine for 6 years prior to her current position and has worked in other childcare settings. Heather is present daily at least 8 hours a day. Marrisa Cunningham was appointed an onsite supervisor in 2023. She holds a BA in Education/Early Education and has been a lead teacher in the center since 2019.

On 8/20/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to the program and all areas were observed at that time. I met with Director Neal. The visit consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. Staff were actively engaged in providing care to the children at the time of the visit. Frequent communication has been had the past year regarding a variety of topics via email and phone.

The center provides: Before and after school care for school age children, and full day daycare and preschool are offered through the week year-round.

A lock is on the front door that requires a code to be entered before a person can enter the center. Children are in enclosed classrooms and are separated according to age. Each classroom has a door that leads directly outdoors to the playground area. Upon entering the center is a commons area that is used as the dining room and also has space for large motor play.

The infant room is kept at a capacity of eight infants. There is a sink in the kitchenette area. Low shelves are used to hold the large chunky toys that are appropriate for this age group. Toys are sanitized daily.

The one year old room can have 12 children but they try to keep the capacity at eight children. A bathroom and 2 sinks are present. Cots are used for naps. Activity centers and low shelves are arranged around the room. There is a variety and nice duplication of age appropriate toys.

The two year old room has a capacity of 15 but typically no more than 12 children are present. The room contains a bathroom with a sink, and an additional sink in the program area of the classroom. Activity centers are arranged throughout the room. The walls are decorated with art projects done by the children.

Capacity in one preschool room is for 18 children. The other two rooms have space for 24 children but limit it to 20 children. All three rooms have sinks in them and each room has a bathroom with a sink. Materials are stored on low shelves so the children can see what they have to choose from for play. Current lesson plans were posted outside each classroom door. The center uses monthly themes. The center does a monthly newsletter.

CENTER NUTRITION:

The center participates in the federal food program. They use a five-week rotating menu. The meals and snacks are nutritious and healthy and meet the food program guidelines. The center has a new cook. Children are served breakfast, morning snack, lunch, and an afternoon snack. A very late small snack is offered to the children who remain at the center until close to closing time. It also meets CACFP guidelines. Food is stored in closed containers. A thermometer is kept in the refrigerator and the temperature is checked daily to ensure a safe and proper temperature is maintained. The kitchen and pantry were clean and well maintained.

Three snacks a day are served. All snacks now meet CACFP requirements.

CENTER HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Medicines are kept in a locked box away from the children. Hand washing by children and staff was observed. Every classroom has a first aid kit and there is a fully stocked first aid kit in the staff room. They also have fanny pack first aid kits they take on field trips. A carbon monoxide detector is located in the closet by the furnace. The furnace is geothermal so it is not required to have a fuel burning appliances inspection. Radon testing is required every five years, and it is recommended the testing be done during the winter months. A test kit is to be placed in every room that serves children except bathrooms, kitchens and laundry areas. Testing is current and under 4pciL.

First aid kits are labeled, inaccessible to children and located in each room. They are taken outdoors with the children as are any emergency medications. Allergy/Asthma action plans are present, completed by parents and physicians and posted in classrooms so staff can refer to them in an emergency.

Fire and tornado drills were practiced and documented monthly per my observation of such.

The climber in the toddler room may need to be measured. If the steps are taller than 18 inches surfacing should be placed in the fall zone.

CENTER PLAYGROUND:

Two playground areas are present and separated by a fence. One is for the children under the age of three, and the larger playground is for the older children. Both
playground areas are fenced in. Poured in place is used for surfacing in the smaller children's play area and wood chips are used on the larger playground area. Wood chips are present but have not been placed beneath climbing equipment. Monthly playground inspections are conducted and documented monthly per my observation of such.

The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized to determine if outdoor play is suitable due to varying weather conditions. First Aid Kits and emergency contacts and medications are taken outdoors with the children.

The Director addressed a mold/, mildew on the fence and play equipment as well as the fence being loose on the bottom last year. Any gaps on the fence between 3.5-9 inches could pose as entrapment hazards. We discussed the use of any equipment that was not rated commercial. The outdoor play area is large. Staff will have to position themselves where all children can be seen. It may be easier for staff to accomplish this if only one group of children at a time are utilizing the play area at once. The date of the visit staff were in positions outdoors where all children could be supervised.

CENTER TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS:

The center does not own vehicles so the only field trips they do are walking field trips in the neighborhood. First aid kits, emergency contacts/emergency medication are taken along.
Field trip ratios are followed. The community swimming pool is next door to the center, so they take the older children there. They invite guest speakers from the community. A school bus stops at the center to pick up and drop off school age children during the school year.

CENTER ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS:

All required postings were observed. This includes a copy of their license certificate, notice of being mandatory child abuse reporters, licensing consultant contact information, classroom emergency evacuation maps, and no smoking signage.

The program utilizes Creative Curriculum. Newer staff are still learning how to implement curriculum. The Director agreed to access CCR&R for assistance.

Child files are reviewed annually including current physicals, updated emergency information, doctor or dentist contact information, pick up and field trip authorizations. Nearly all child physicals and updates are up to date. The Director is working with parents to secure and future updates.

The center employs 16 staff. Staff files are reviewed annually, including current physicals, SING checks, fingerprint results, updated professional development training, mandatory reporter training, First Aid and CPR training. Two staff are behind on First Aid. All other areas of staff files are in compliance so this is not a pattern of disregard.

The staff use redirection when necessary for discipline.

All staff have been trained on the Emergency Preparedness Plan and have staff signed and date acknowledgment of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Room sizes are large and children have more space than typically provided in childcare settings.

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

1. 109.8(2)b: Combinations of age groupings for children between 3 and 5 years of age may be allowed with a staff of 1 to every 12 children. Two year old children were mixed with school age children. Staff did not have children specifically assigned to their care and were not aware of how many children they were supervising. The Director agreed to ensure the children are broken into groups and individually assigned to specific staff members.

2. 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. Mulch was present but needs to be placed under climbing equipment in the outdoor play area.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has dramatically decreased violations the past 5 years.

*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.