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

Name of Center: Casey's General Stores Child Development Center **Enrollment:** 92 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27745

Street: 1 SE Convenience Blvd **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1 SE Convenience Blvd, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Chris Moulden **Phone Number:** 515-965-6520

On-Site Supervisor(s): Pam Aagesen **E-Mail:** cmoulden@caseys.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-23-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-01-2021

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

Date Inspected: 05-11-2023

Comments :

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 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	26	20	66	14	126
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2022 to 05-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 05-25-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 5/23/23. The Director was present throughout the visit.

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.

This program is located in the Casey's corporate office building and has been in existence since 1990. They offer care for children whose parents or grandparents work for Casey's. These family members will often stop down at the center to see their children. This is especially nice for parents of newborns. Chris Moulden has been the director since 1994. She has a degree in Elementary Ed. Pam Aagensen has been the assistant director since 2000. She has her degree in Early Childhood.

The hours of operation are 6:45 am-5:30 pm. Care is offered to infants and children up to age five. During the summer they will offer care to a small group of school age children.

The center completed some renovation and remodeling recently. Two new rooms were added to the center, as well as another bathroom. The center has new floors, new cabinets in the classrooms and cupboards, as well as new tables and counter tops. Windows were added to the infant room on the wall, located lower to the ground so the infants can look out of the windows into the hallway and children walking through the hallway can see into the infant room through the windows; which is especially nice when there are sibling groups. There are new, lower sinks in the classrooms. The center put in what is called Wall-talker in the classrooms that will allow staff to write on it and put tape on it without damage, and the writing erases off. The center put in what is called Korogaurd throughout the center, in hallways and classrooms. This is a durable wall surface goes 4 feet up on all of the walls.

The center now has a large motor play area inside the center to be able to use when the weather does not allow children to go outside. Recently, surfacing was added to this space that allows for some equipment and the surfacing covers the entire area, with a path for trikes and some areas of the surfacing, which is turf, is blue to look like water with fish outlines. The fire marshal has inspected this space and approved this space. The square footage of this space allows for 100 children. During the summer months the center will use some of this space for their school age children to separate out the children more and give them more space. This space may at some point be converted into classroom space, the outline of this is not entirely know yet and when this is completed the new classrooms and space will be added to the report through an administrative change. The capacity will not be changed at this time.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum with Gold Assessment. The center also incorporates a primary caregiver system for the infants up to age two, a caregiver is assigned their primary 4 or 6 children in the classroom.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Many of the staff are long term employees at this center. Over half of the staff have a degree in Elementary Education or

Early Childhood. The few staff who do not have a college degree have several years of experience working in the field of child care.

There is longevity of staff at this center, with staff working at the center for 30 years, 24 years, 17 years and 7-10 years. Ten out of the 24 staff at this center have been there for 10 years or longer.

There are staff pictures and profiles outside of the classrooms.

The Director has been with the center for 29 years and brings valuable experience and strong leadership to the center.

Both Chris and Pam have taught Early Childhood classes for students at DMACC.

The communication between the teachers is strong and the teachers/staff work well together. The staff are professional and they are passionate about providing quality child care and education to the children they serve.

The center has a strong reputation in the community and is known for providing quality of care.

The children are ready for kindergarten both academically and socially.

The communication between the center and parents is strong. The center sends out a monthly newsletter as well.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center uses Heartland AEA as a resource and a support.

The center conducts conferences three times a year, sometimes four times with the pre-K children. The center conducts parent conference at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months and at 24 months.

The center receives strong support from the Casey's corporation.

The center recently started using the Tadpoles App, which has been a beneficial addition. Both staff and families like and appreciate the app.

The center added laptop computers to each classroom, as well as the I-Pad. This allows teachers to print from their laptop computer and complete lesson plans.

Staff received a wage increase again this year.

The director focuses on the successes of the staff and talks with them about their goals and what they need for support.

The center put in a new outdoor playground recently. The playground has turf for surfacing and is Casey's themed, with donuts, pizza slices, a gas pump, a store front as well as a path for tricycles that has stop signs, and new fencing with smaller openings and coating over the metal. There are musical instruments and some turf covered climbing mounds that can be moved.

The director feels they have been able to stay positive and involved in providing quality care despite what has been happening these past few years. The director has worked hard to keep everyone safe and healthy and provide for a stable environment. They have a had a good year of growth and staff help each other out.

Pam, the assistant director, meets with staff 1-2 times a month to do a check in and mentor staff.

The administration team did a week of teacher appreciation in May, doing something everyday for teachers to show appreciation. The parents did a video saying how they appreciated the teachers.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control. Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the

American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.

Two staff files reviewed did not have Essentials training completed within three months of hire and one staff did not have CPR/First Aid training completed within the first three months of hire.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if testing is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last radon testing was completed in May of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The center has the heating/cooling system inspected and checked monthly.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Discussion took place regarding the lighting in the toddler classroom at nap time, the lighting was too dark to see the children fully, staff said they turn the lighting up after the children fall asleep. The director will ensure the classrooms maintain sufficient lighting during nap time.

The director stated the staff missing Essentials training will complete this soon, one has a Master's degree and thought this counted for Essentials and one accidentally took Passport training.

*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.