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

Name of Center: APK Early Learning Academy - Dewitt **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51767

Street: 1300 8th AVE **City:** Dewitt Iowa **Zip** 52742 **County:** Clinton

Mailing Address: 1300 8th AVE, Dewitt, IA, 52742

Director's Name: Courtney Maher **Phone Number:** 563-659-9412

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** courtney@apk-academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-06-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 03-07-2023

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	43	14	28	15	100
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: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 03-05-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 2/6/25. The center is for profit and is one of two centers owned and operated by Robin McNamara. Robin leases the building. Robin was not present for the visit. Courtney Maher is now the center director and was present along with other staff. Allie Bennet is the center director for Robin's other center and provides some oversight to this center as well. Allie arrived on site during the visit. The center does not participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center operates from the main level of a two story building. The upstairs level is only used for storage.

The center consists of the following program rooms: Big room (front room, school age), toddler/twos room (middle room, may also include children 18 months through three years), prek room (back room, three through five year old), and nursery room (zero to 18 months). Program rooms were generally adequately supplied with materials to support program needs. Program rooms all have access to at least one hand washing sink within or immediately adjacent to the program room. The toddler/twos room and prek room have a restroom area that is adjacent to the room. The big room restroom area is down a short hallway from the room. Some travel is required for these children to use the restroom. Rooms with children in diapers have appropriate diaper stations located within the program space nearby to a hand washing sink. All program space was observed.

The center does not currently participate in the CACFP. The center serves breakfast, lunch, and snack. All meals and snacks are catered to the center from a licensed catering business. The center's kitchen area continues appear clean and highly organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owner/director is experienced at operating licensed child care in Iowa. The center is bright with large windows and decorated to display items the children have created. The staff were once again observed to be engaged in activities with the children throughout the center. Required documentation for licensing as well as staff and child files are highly organized.

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

STAFF FILES:
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.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed did not complete mandatory child abuse reporter certification within the first three months of employment as required.

109.10(3): Medications.
1. Medication present without current completed authorization in the toddler/twos room.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. 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.
1. Laundry room area is accessible to the children with various chemicals accessible there. There is currently no door for the room, and children walk by this room routinely to use the restroom.
2. Tables not cleaned and sanitized immediately prior to the food service activity or children at the tables prior to washing hands for lunch as observed in the toddler/twos room.
3. Staff did not wash hands immediately prior to food service activities as observed in the toddler/twos room and in the prek room.
4. Items set next to hand washing sink in the toddler/twos restroom area. This is not sanitary storage area.
5. Items observed set on diaper station surface in the toddler/twos room.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consultation has been provided to the center regarding the updated rules regarding combining different age groupings of children and what is allowed and when. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure they are in compliance.

1. Emergency plan posting at hallway door from big room is incomplete, emergency plan posting missing at doorway from big room to the exit hallway, emergency plan posting is needed at door from big room to toddler/twos room emergency plan postings at nursery doors are missing information.
2. Diaper procedure posting is needed at diaper station in nursery.
3. Improve cot spacing in toddler/twos room (at least two feet between cots). Ensure cots do not block any doors/doorways (observed in the prek room). Ensure items are not set on cots and that cots are set and stored so that cots/blankets/bedding are maintained separate and sanitary.
4. Higher sink in the prek room needs hand washing poster (staff stated this sink is used for hand washing).
5. Label diaper waste can in the prek room for this material only.
6. Improve supervision of children's hand washing activities.
7. Ensure staff stay at the tables with children when they are eating.
8. Ensure all open food items are stored in a sealed container or ziploc and dated for freshness.

The center will continue with a full license. The center is directed to correct the items cited and the items noted above in this section of the report and to submit a written summary to the licensing consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. The written summary shall be submitted within 30 days of receipt of this evaluation. Thank yo

*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.