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

**Name of Center:** Learn and Play PS & DCC - Cedar Falls **Enrollment:** 64 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36290

**Street:** 4710 Cedar Heights DR **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

**Mailing Address:** 4710 Cedar Heights DR, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

**Director's Name:** Mary Sires **Phone Number:** 319-266-7944

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Tera Smith and Tammy Lies **E-Mail:** sires_mary@yahoo.com

**Date(s) of Visit:**

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 05-18-2023

**Comments :** The program added an addition to their existing building. The new addition was approved for use by the fire marshal on 04/03/24.

**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 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 | 13 | 33 | 81 | 0 | 127 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Becky Frost **Date:** 04-03-2024

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

N/A

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

On 07/19/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Learn and Play Preschool and Daycare Center in Cedar Falls. Autumn Rubino is the co-director for the center. She was not present the day of my visit. Ms. Rubino has been with the program since it opened in August 2011 and worked at the Learn and Play Preschool and Daycare in Evansdale prior to that. Mary Sires is the co-director and owner of the center. I met with Jennifer Holstad, the on-site supervisor. She has been with the program since August 2011. There are seventeen staff members employed by the center.

The program operates out of a free-standing building. The center opened in August 2011. The program operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm and serves infants through preschool aged children. There are currently 64 children enrolled. The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 5 that expires on 02/28/24.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant/toddler room (Bunnies), two-year-old room (Crickets), three-year-old room (Dinosaurs) and preschool room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There are several culturally diversified posters. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the rooms for the older children. The hallways are also decorated with the children's artwork, pictures of the children and pictures of the staff members.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, listening, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, play dough, science, puppets, writing, math, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

Cribs and cots are used to nap.

There are two bathrooms in the hallway. One bathroom has two toilets and one sink. The other bathroom has one toilet, one urinal and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are sinks in each room and handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. Diaper changing procedures were posted near all the diaper changing tables. I observed diaper changes and procedures are followed.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Activities are based upon weekly themes. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review. The teachers assess the children a minimum of three times each year using the ASQ Assessment tool for children ages six weeks through two-years-old and the Creative Curriculum GOLD assessments for children who are three, four and five-years-old. They also complete ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 assessments.

The center uses the ProCare app for their daily sheets and to communicate with the families for all ages.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. Daily schedules were 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 April 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. The carbon monoxide is in the utility room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/18/23.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center serves the children breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Autumn Rubino and Jenny Holstad are the primary cooks. Meals are served in the rooms. Family style is used for the older children and the staff members serve the younger children. The center uses a four-week rotation of menus. Dishes from all rooms are returned to the kitchen where they are put through the dishwasher. There are also two sinks in the kitchen and the three-step method can be used. Menus and allergies were posted. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were thermometers present in all the refrigerators and freezers.

The center provides the infants one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If parents prefer a different brand, they must supply their own. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be washed and sanitized in the dishwasher.

The center uses Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. They use bleach to sanitize the toys or put toys through the dishwasher.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. There is a resource shelf available in this area as well. 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 program has two fenced in outdoor play areas. The area for the older children uses woodchips for surface cushioning. There is a concrete path for riding toys. There are playhouses, sensory tables, rocking toys, a transportation center and dramatic play equipment. There are picnic tables, and a tarp is available to provide shade.

The second play area is for the infants and toddlers is located on the grass. There is a tarp for shade. There are rocking toys and sensory tables.

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

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 were observed to have great interaction with the children. They moved around the room to provide supervision and to interact with all the children. They sat on the floor to interact with the children at their level. They introduced activities and actively played with the children. Staff members used play to teach the children about colors and count. Staff members talked with the children about sharing and positive redirection and PBIS methods were used when necessary. Staff members were nurturing. They held children on their laps and were comforting. In the infant room staff members had great knowledge of the children's schedules. They worked on tummy time, sitting up, rolling over and walking. The children appeared comfortable in the center.

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

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 5 that expires on 02/28/24.

The center is in a secured location and there are cameras in each of the rooms and in the office.

The center is in the process of construction for an additional three rooms.

The program had easy to read staff and children files and an organized licensing notebook.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance and there are pictures of the children in the hallways along with their art projects. There is a resource table for parents in the entrance.

There are several visual cues in the classrooms for the children and the centers are clearly labeled. There are multiple culturally diversified posters in the classrooms.

Staff members complete ASQ assessments and ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 assessments on the children. They make referrals to Central Rivers AEA and CCR&R when the data from the assessments determine invention is necessary.

Staff members use the data from the assessments to complete lesson plans in their classrooms. They have family conferences in the fall and spring in the preschool room and at least once each year for the younger children.

Staff members use PBIS and Tucker Turtle "Turtle Techniques" in the classrooms to deal with behaviors and emotional needs.

Owlets are used in the infant room.

The center had a fantastic visit. Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children.

The program does parent surveys twice each year.

Ms. Rubino does an amazing job as the director of the program. She is organized and has a great working relationship with the staff members and the families they serve.

Ms. Rubino states their staff members receive paid time off and paid holidays.

Ms. Rubino and Ms. Holstad have both been with the program since it opened which gives the program stability.

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

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

In March 2024 Autumn Rubino is being removed as the director and Jenny Holstad is being removed as an on-site supervisor. They are no longer with the program. Mary Sires will remain the director and Tera Smith and Tammy Lies will be on-site supervisors.

On 04/03/24 I am making an administrative change to increase the capacity of the center to 127 children. The center added three additional rooms to the center. The new construction was approved for occupancy on 04/03/24.

*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.