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

Name of Center: New Creations Child Care & Learning Ctr at EP True **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52267

Street: 3424 EP True PKWY **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3424 EP True PKWY, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Halie Darrow **Phone Number:** 515-415-4400

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mikala Woolcot **E-Mail:** eptrue@newcreationschildcare.com cambria.morris@newcreationschildcare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-26-2024

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:** 08-10-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-13-2023

Comments : The West Des Moines Fire Marshal. West Des Moines typically does annual inspections. Licensing requirements are that these are done at least every three years.

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	30	26	80	25	161
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-14-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-28-2024

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 6/26/24. The director was present throughout this visit as was the regional director, Cambria Morris.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

New Creations Child Care and Learning Center at EP True is a newer center that was given permission to open on 8/14/23. The center serves children six weeks in age through school-age using the company's New Creations Learning Curriculum. This is one of three New Creations programs located within the Des Moines Metro with another one being in Ankeny and another one located in Waukee. The center is privately owned by a company based out of Minnesota. The director of this center is Halie Darrow. Halie has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working in child care. The on-site supervisor is Mikala Woolcot. Mikala has an AAS degree and also has past experience working in child care. The regional director is Cambria Morris. Cambria has a BA degree and also has past experience working in child care , which includes being a director at other programs in the Des Moines area.

During the visit, children were observed in various stages of free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, napping in cribs, and playing outside on the playground. Staff were spaced out in classrooms and on the playground and interacting with children. Sunscreen was also observed being applied to children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center that meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The center uses an electronic app (Daily Connect) for more thorough communication with parents.

There is a secure entrance into the program.

The center was clean and there was good lighting throughout the building.

The regional director, director, and on-site supervisor both have past experience working in child care. They are all organized.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

This director also has regular meetings with the other two Des Moines metro directors and regional director. There is continuity between the three programs. There is also a maintenance person who is on site between the three programs.

The director stated staff appear to work well together and are willing to help each other.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: All children enrolled in the center need to have listed a doctor and a dentist on file regardless of age.

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.
There were at least a couple of bolts on the smaller playground climbing structure where another nut is needed for each bolt so that no more than two threads are showing.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Children two and older should be served one percent cows milk or skim cows milk rather than two percent milk.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The maintenance person stated the carbon monoxide detectors are built into the fire alarm system.

Radon testing was conducted in all classrooms 6/23/23 - 6/26/23. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual HVAC system was serviced last on 6/12/24.

The center is not yet going on field trips. They do bring different agencies into the program for presentations to children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. It appears staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded. The center has started the IQ4K application process.

As far as the center handbooks that were reviewed last year and notes made, here are the updated notes from the 6/2024 visit inspection:

1. For fingerprinting, these either need to be completed prior to work on the first day or at least scheduled. The center has listed they have several days to get done which is past regulation timeframes.

2. Physicals are needed within 30 days of enrollment (the center has listed 14 days which is fine so long as under 30 days) for all children under school age. Statements of health are needed by parents for all school-age children within again 30 days of enrollment and then also due annually.

3. For ratio, it will always be 1:4 for children 23 months of age and younger. However, it can be 1:7 IF and ONLY IF there is a combination 18 month old children to 3 years old. The center has in their handbooks combining at 16 months which is not allowed.

4. The center has added an Access Policy, but it was still incomplete. Another sample Access Policy was emailed to the center after the visit concluded. Sex offender information is still needed.

*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.