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

Name of Center: Science Center Of Iowa Preschool **Enrollment:** 125 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27773

Street: 401 W MLK JR PKWY **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50309 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 401 W MLK JR PKWY, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Director's Name: Amber Forrest **Phone Number:** 515-274-6868

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** amber.forrest@sciowa.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-05-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-29-2021

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

Date Inspected: 06-29-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			120		120
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 12-19-2022

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Science Center of Iowa Preschool has been in operation since 2005. The preschool has it’s own entrance, which is secured. Each classroom is also locked. Amber Forrest is the director. She began in this role in March 2015. Amber has a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to DHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. The preschool has six classrooms: Curiosity, Discovery, Inquiry, Exploration, Imagination and Wonder. There is also a multipurpose classroom that is used for large motor play activities. Children's coats and backpacks are kept on hooks and cubbies in the hallway. Each classroom has a schedule and lesson plan. Classrooms are well supplied with developmentally appropriate furnishings, toys and learning supplies. Each classrooms has labeled interest centers.

Amber wasn't present today. Zach Riggins assisted with the visit. Six of the classrooms were in session today. Children were observed in the classrooms. Some of the classes were observed on the playground also. Children were observed during child directed play activities and staff led activities. Staff were seen assisting children prepare for rest time in some classes. Staff were actively engaged with the children's activities in all the classrooms. Interactions between the staff and children were observed to be positive.

The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. The center has a contract with the Science Center cafeteria for meals. Menus reflect CACFP requirements are followed.

The center's playground has fencing. There are some small climbing structures. There is rubber mulch in place for surfacing material. The center completes monthly playground checks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has their NAEYC accreditation which is an achievement obtained by only a small percentage of child care programs in the nation. This is a reflection of the center's commitment in providing a quality early educational program for young children. The classrooms are well supplied with age appropriate learning materials and toys.

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

There were no licensing violations cited during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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