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

Name of Center: Newman Childcare & Preschool **Enrollment:** 289 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22029

Street: 2050 S McKinley **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 2050 S McKinley, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Kendra Mennen **Phone Number:** 641-423-0168

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hillary Kehm-Chuck, Tamera Richardson **E-Mail:** Kmennen@newmancatholic.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-20-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-24-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA X Other 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	37	18	199	70	324
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 12-01-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Newman Childcare and Preschool on 11-20-23 where I met with center director Kendra Mennen. Kendra took over as the director in August 2019 and is well qualified for the position with extensive experience and training in early childhood care and education. This program is housed in a space that is adjoined to the Newman Catholic School in Mason City overseen by a board of directors and operated as a non-profit organization. The center provides full range daycare, formal 3 year old preschool, 4 year old preschool, Pre-Kindergarten classes, and before/after school programming for school age children. There are currently 289 children enrolled in the center served by 55 employees. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the center remains the same as in prior visits. The center makes use of 8 classrooms for the daycare which are determined primarily by age and designated by Color names. The program also makes use of 4 classroom spaces of the connecting wing of the main school building for the formal preschool programs. The infant area consists of 4 classroom spaces though all have a 3 wall design and are connected by open corridors. Three of the spaces have half walls that separate the programming space from areas with staff supplies and changing stations. The remaining classrooms of the daycare setting are individual rooms though they do share common restroom facilities, and two of the rooms are accessed by a connecting doorway from the other classrooms. Each of the rooms have a secondary exit providing direct access to the outdoors. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and open freely. One issue that was noted is the interior door of the older infant room uses a handle block to prevent children from opening the door by pulling down on the handle. The does need to check with the Fire Marshal to ensure that this is an allowable option as it may be considered a barrier to evacuation. Emergency evacuation information information posed by exits was incomplete with several only having diagram instructions. As a reminder emergency evacuation plans must include both diagram and written instructions and are required to be posted by all exits from all programming spaces. Each room has restroom facilities either located in the classroom or access to shared restroom facilities directly from the classroom. Each room has additional sinks in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Rooms with younger children also have changing stations located in the classrooms. The required changing procedures posting was not present by all changing stations. While there were some minor maintenance issues such as damaged paint and drywall none rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern. With the exception of a divided infant room and the preschool rooms located in the school building all of the rooms have windows that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has a large open floor plan that is divided into activity centers though the placement of low shelves, furniture, and play structures. The design of the rooms and arrangement of the furnishing is such that they do not create any blind areas.

The available activity centers progress with the ages and developmental levels of the children. Each room had options such large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading with classrooms for older children adding group learning, experience tables, dramatic play, puzzles, and table games. Each activity center was well stocked with materials that were in good repair and generally appropriate to the ages of the children present. It was noted that some of the toddler rooms did have some toys with small parts that could present a choking risk and these should either be removed or kept in storage where they can be brought out for supervised play. Each room had a daily schedule and copy of the curriculum posted. The center does have a general rotation of planned curriculum focus themes that are followed throughout the year. Each classroom did have individual curriculum plans with an identified learning focus, and specific shape, color, and number learning concepts.

Good interactions were observed in each room with the staff being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned curriculum. As an example when visiting the infant area the teachers in each age group were observed to be engaged with activities that were developmentally appropriate with a focus of helping the children build skills. This included the birth to 6 month olds doing tummy time, 6-12 month having floor time, 12-18 month engaged in free choice play with a teacher helping them stack blocks, and the 18-24 month engaged in a teacher lead craft activity. Good behavior management practices were observed with the staff using proactive methods of engagement with the children that recognized and encouraged positive positive behaviors. This included recognizing positive behaviors, reviewing expected behavior, and redirection. The center also uses programs such as "Red & Green Choices". Ratio was maintained as required in each classroom.

Good health and safety policies and procedures were in place on the day of my visit. I was able to observe several diaper changes during the time of my visit and it was noted that not all staff washed each infant's hands following the diapering. Good cleaning practices were observed with the staff directing children out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. One issue that was noted is that the center uses a bleach water solution for sanitizing surfaces and dilutes the product using an older "recipe". It was reviewed that staff should read and follow the manufacturer label directions regarding the use and storage of products. Chemical cleaners, medications, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas that are not readily accessible to the children. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and generally contained items sufficient to address most common first aid needs. Safe sleep practices were followed in the infant rooms. It was noted that some of the connections on some cribs was loose and while not impacting the structural integrity of the units to the point of being an immediate safety concern the hardware does need to be tightened. Bedding was provided for all cots and cribs and were properly fitted. Staff were in the immediate area when infants were on the floor doing Tummy Time.

The center uses the school kitchen but employs a separate cook and supplies for meal preparation. Good food storage, handling, and preparation procedures were generally observed on the day of my visit. It was noted that some food items kept in classrooms were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal had been broken. This is required for all foods whether intended for child consumption or not such as food brought in for staff, or used in activity centers. Following proper storage practices does help to reduce the risk of food being an attractant to insects and rodents, and spoilage. Food is transported in hot/cold holding cafeteria carts in covered containers and staff wear gloves, and use measured scoops when serving. The staff did sit and eat with the children both providing supervision at the table and modeling good eating habits.

The center has two playgrounds with one for the preschool age children and one for the school age children. While the school does have control over the school age playground the center does make use of that equipment with older children and does report any damaged items to the school for repair. That playground uses wood mulch for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present. The preschool playground is maintained by the daycare and substantial renovation work had been completed since the last visit. This includes removal and replacement of older climbing structures, installation of new unitary foam fall surfacing, and installation of a shade structure. There is some work to be completed with either installing a retaining wall, or doing grading work for the transition from the grass to the new playground structure area. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. The preschool playground space is enclosed by chain link fencing which was in good repair. A storage shed is present to store additional toys and materials for the children to play with. Shade is provided by the building, maturing trees, and a new shade structure. The center also has access to a large grassy area, and paved areas where the children can play.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. The center uses a combination of electronic and hard copy file maintenance and does have a self-audit tracking system which was found to be accurate when compared to files that were randomly selected for review. The self-audit did identify that 33 children needed an updated physical. The self-audit for the staff files identified 6 that needed an initial or renewed physical, 1 that needed a national criminal history check, and 2 that had not completed all required training within the first 90 days of employment. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Emergency Drills. The center uses an approach of having each classroom plan, practice, and log their own emergency fire and tornado evacuation drills. This resulted in a situation where some classrooms either had not conducted or logged those drills monthly as required. It is recommended that the center practice the drills as a center wide event given that if there is an actual emergency all children would be evacuated and doing the drill as a center could help to identify issues that may need to be addressed such as ensuring sufficient room, equipment, and support. It would also ensure that a single master log is maintained to confirm that all staff and children are familiar with the evacuation procedures.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program continually strives to provide the highest level of care possible. The center is completing the application and assessment process for the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

The center has completed substantial renovations to the playground as noted.

Kendra reported that the preschool did receive 1st place in the 2023 Readers Choice award, and the daycare 2nd place.

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.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 6

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 33

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Drills are conducted and logged separately by each classroom. Several classrooms did not have documentation that drills were conducted and/or logged for each month. Emergency Evacuation notices did not have both written and diagram instructions by all exits from all programming spaces as required.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
-- Infant's hands were not washed following diaper change as required. The required diapering procedures posting was not present by all changing stations.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- All food items whether intended for child consumption or not must be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the contents and date placed in storage once the original packaging seal has been broken.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.