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

Name of Center: Play and Learn Children's Center **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16857

Street: 301 Alexander AVE STE A **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 301 Alexander AVE STE A, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Wendy Bell **Phone Number:** 515-233-4431

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rebecca Steig **E-Mail:** amesplayandlearn@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-09-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-01-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-07-2021

Comments : A fire inspection is due 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	34	18	30	12	94
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 02-14-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 1/9/23. The director/owner, Wendy, was present throughout the visit, as was the On-Site Supervisor.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The playground was observed, however it was snow covered.

Wendy Wyckoff has been the owner of this center since October 2013. Wendy has stepped back into the role of full time Director as of September of 2022. Rebecca Steig is the on-site supervisor, beginning in this role in August of 2020. Rebecca worked at the center for 4 years before taking on this role. Both meet qualifications for their positions. Lacey, the previous director and daughter of the owner, still helps out at the center administratively and in the classrooms.

This center is open from 6:30 am-6:00 pm. They provide care for infants through school age children. They offer full and part time care.

There are six enclosed classrooms and children are grouped according to their age.

The center has a designated staff who assists with curriculum ideas and lesson plans. The center does not use a specific curriculum, however bases their lesson plans and themes off of Early Learning Standards. The center has weekly lesson plans for the classrooms. The center is looking at adding Teaching Strategies Gold in their curriculum and assessments.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The center is continuing to follow all DHS guidelines regarding Covid-19. The center appointed what they call a cleaning Ambassador to go through the classrooms weekly to ensure the classrooms are clean.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a pro-care system in place and uses this system for daily notes and real time communication with families. There is a tablet in each classroom.

There is a core group of staff who are dedicated and work well together. They are professional and have a good relationship with the families.

There are many long term staff. Three staff have worked at the center for 10 years, two for 8 years, one at 7 years, two at five years and one at four years.

The staff are nurturing and caring. The staff are invested in the center and take pride in their classrooms.

The center has a home atmosphere and there is art work completed by the children on the walls in the hallway.

The center has a secure entrance.

The administrative staff work well together.

Lacey is trained as a certified CPR and First Aid instructor and is able to train the staff in CPR and First Aid.

Center staff know their families well and work hard to build and maintain a positive, trusting relationship with their families.

The administrative team strives to let staff know they are valued by arranging staff outings for bonding time, celebrating staff anniversaries, and promoting staff from within the center. The center closes two days a year for deep cleaning and on these days the administrative team will bring in food for staff, have gift cards for all of the staff and have a cash drawing for staff of $250; the administrative teams makes these days fun for staff. Every fall the administrative team has a week of staff appreciation. They do something everyday that week to show staff they are appreciated. The administrative team will bring in treats for staff, snacks and coffee randomly. They have door decorating contests at holidays. They have started an after hours book club for staff, meeting once a month.

The center has monthly all staff meetings and monthly lead staff meetings.

The center receives positive reviews on social media.

The center received grant money and has plans to update classrooms with new flooring and cabinets and taking a partial wall out of the infant classroom. These updates are still taking place they are working on installing cabinets.

The center is starting a free library for staff and families.

The administrative team conducts 90 day reviews with new staff.

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

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: 1
One staff file reviewed did not have a repeat physical at the three year mark.

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: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 4
Information lacking: One child file did not contain any information regarding a preferred doctor or dentist. Three child files did not contain any information regarding a preferred dentist.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.
A cabinet under the sink in the preschool classroom was open, with no locking mechanism and contained a bottle of bleach. The preschool classroom was observed during nap time and the lighting was too dark, the classroom did not have sufficient lighting to adequately observe the children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon testing was completed in June of 2021 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The center is on the food program and the menus reflect the center is following the CACFP guidelines. The center provides for breakfast, an AM snack, lunch, and an afternoon snack.

The staff tracking sheet had documentation for the staff physical that it was repeated at the three year mark, however the physical form in the file was not completed at three years, it was completed three years and nine months after the first

physical.

The director and on-site supervisor will ensure the child files contain all of the required and necessary information for doctor and dentist information.

Discussion took place regarding the under the sink cabinet in the preschool classroom and a locking mechanism will be placed on the cabinet, or the bleach will be moved to a location inaccessible to children. Discussion took place regarding the lighting at nap time and ensuring the lighting is sufficient to adequately observe the children.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.