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

Name of Center: Zuma Zoo Daycare **Enrollment:** 44 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46951

Street: 108 E Irwin St **City:** Montezuma Iowa **Zip** 50171 **County:** Poweshiek

Mailing Address: PO Box 923, Montezuma, IA, 50171

Director's Name: Shelly Phipps **Phone Number:** 641-623-3457

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** alexa@zumazoodaycare.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-18-2025

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:** 03-10-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-29-2022

Comments : 12/14/22 - date of compliance

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	8		18	18	44
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 03-21-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Zuma Zoo Daycare opened April 2016. The center is located within a single standing building which has a secured entrance. The center serves children ages infancy through ten years. Alexa Wheaton is the owner. Alexa has a BA in Elementary Education. Shelly Phipps is director.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licenses rules were observed. The center has three program classrooms: an infant classroom, a room that serves children ages two to four and a classroom that serves preschool children and also school age children. Mandatory postings were up in the entry way. Schedules were posted. Lesson plans were posted or made available today.

Shelly initially assisted with the visit and Alexa came to the daycare during the visit. She assisted with the rest of today's visit. The infant classroom serves children ages six weeks up to children turning two years. The room is divided into two areas, non mobiles and mobiles. There were eight infants present. Two staff were working in this classroom. The middle classroom had thirteen children, ages two and three, present. Two staff were working with this age group. There were no children present in the preschool/school age classroom. Staff were observed to be interacting with the children throughout the visit. Children were observed during transition time, preparing for rest time and some children were observed sleeping. Interactions between the staff and children were observed to be appropriate.

The center has a kitchen. Alexa and another staff do food preparation for all meals. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Menus were reviewed and follow CACFP guidelines. The cupboards, refrigerator and freezer had ample food for meals and snacks.

The center has a fenced in outdoor playground. There is one climbing structure on the main area of the playground. There is an area for the smaller children. There are some climbing structures in this area also. The older children go to the school's playground at times for outdoor play also. Monthly playground inspections have been completed. With the spring season just arriving, Alexa ordered one hundred and fifty bags of mulch that will be added to the playground. There was mulch in the required areas but more is needed.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Alexa has a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. The center is located close to the elementary school. Alexa works part time hours at the center.

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

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.
February 2025 fire and tornado drills were missed. January fire drill was missed.
This worker told Alexa that missed drills are to be made up the following month and documented on the date they are completed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was using Great Value Disinfecting Wipes for the diaper changing table. Alexa said they have been using Lysol wipes. This worker reminded Alexa staff need to follow manufacturer's directions to ensure proper disinfecting is occurring. A product with a shorter dwell time is recommended.

*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 melinda.larson@hhs.iowa.gov) 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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