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

Name of Center: Tamarack Discovery School **Enrollment:** 17 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51928

Street: 14 S. Linn Street **City:** Iowa City Iowa **Zip** 52240 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Katie Christiansen **Phone Number:** 319-899-8835

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** katie@tamarackschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-19-2024

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:** 11-04-2024

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

Date Inspected: 09-16-2024

Comments : Does Comply.

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 Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care X 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			12	48	60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 11-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker arrived at Tamarack Discovery School for an annual visit on 11/19/2024. The center provides care for preschool to school aged children. They are open Monday-Friday 7am to 5:30pm. They have children 17 enrolled.

The center is located inside of Tamarack Discovery School. The program uses two classrooms. The center is nonprofit and overseen by a board of directors. The center's fire inspection was completed on 9/16/2024.

All program space was observed on the date of my visit.

The director is Katie Christiansen. Katie has taught for 19 years in public education, serving as a Title 1 Reading Interventionist, Classroom Teacher, and Instructional Design Strategist. She has a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a Master's in School Administration.

Nutritional practices were checked. The center serves morning snacks and afternoon snacks. They have parents provide their child's lunch. The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center followed handwashing procedures. The center had a fully stocked first aid kit.

The center's curriculum focuses on nature. They take daily adventures to the local forests, prairies, and creeks. Hours of each day are spent exploring through guided, immersive nature experiences and self-directed play. Play-based and developmentally appropriate child-led experiences balance out the day back at school. Invitations to pre-academic disciplines are curated based on student wonder, readiness, and interests.

The center's policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed. The center had all required postings.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center's website is: https://www.tamarackschool.org/
-The center is a combination of private school and HHS Licensed Preschool/Before and After School Care.
-The center has the Book Mobile at a park once a week.
-The center is clean, nicely organized and has a wide variety of educational and engaging activities.
-They have a wooded campus in North Liberty..

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment) 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.
-Several staff must get First Aid and CPR. Please review:
https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/53%20Center%20Guidebook.pdf

109.9(1)b: All files contain: Copies of national criminal history check results.
-All staff need National FBI Checks. Please review:
https://iowaccrr.org/blog/2022/10/31/news/fingerprint_processing_update_october_2022/ar/2568/
and https://iowaccrr.org/resources/files/BGP/62%20Record%20Check%20Guide.pdf

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The following agencies are available to provide consultation, support, and educational opportunities:
CACFP: https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program
Child Care Resource and Referral: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
Early Childhood Iowa: https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
First Children's Finance: https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/
Healthy Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants
Iowa AEYC: http://www.iowaaeyc.org/
Iowa After School Alliance: https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/
Iowa State University: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/early-childhood
4c's of Johnson County: https://www.iowa4cs.com/

*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.