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

Name of Center: APK Early Learning Academy - Dewitt **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51767

Street: 1300 8th AVE **City:** Dewitt Iowa **Zip** 52742 **County:** Clinton

Mailing Address: 1300 8th AVE, Dewitt, IA, 52742

Director's Name: Robin McNamara **Phone Number:** 563-659-9412

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** Bailey@APK-Academy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-20-2024

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:** 02-27-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-07-2023

Comments :

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	43	14	28	15	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 04-01-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 3/20/24. The center is for profit and is one of two centers owned and operated by Robin McNamara. Robin leases the building. Robin is the center director. The center does not participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center operates from the main level of a two story building. The upstairs level is only used for storage.

The center consists of the following program rooms: Prek/school age room (front room, age four and up), two/three year old room (middle room, may also include children over 18 months), toddler room (back room, approximately 15 months through 23 months), and nursery room (zero to approximately 15 months). Program rooms were generally adequately supplied with materials to support program needs. Program rooms all have access to at least one hand washing sink within or immediately adjacent to the program room. The two/three year old room and toddler room have a restroom area that is adjacent to the room. The prek/school age room restroom area is down a short hallway from the room. Some travel is required for these children to use the restroom. Rooms with children in diapers have appropriate diaper stations located within the program space nearby to a hand washing sink. All program space was observed.

The center does not currently participate in the CACFP. The center serves breakfast, lunch, and snack. Breakfast and lunch are catered to the center from a licensed catering business. Snacks are prepared on site in the center's kitchen area. The kitchen area continues appear clean and highly organized.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owner/director is experienced at operating licensed child care in Iowa. The center is well managed. The staff appear to work well together. The ownership has continued to make improvements and upgrades to the building. The concrete portion of the outdoor play area has been replaced, the interior of the building has been re-painted except for the infant room, the center has new lighting installed, and new flooring has been added to the toddler room since the last licensing visit. New tables and chairs have been added to the twos/threes room to fit the children better. The center is bright with large windows and decorated to display items the children have created. The staff were once again observed to be engaged in activities with the children throughout the center. Required documentation for licensing as well as staff and child files are highly organized.

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

STAFF FILES:
109.6(6) Record checks. c. Iowa records checks. Checks and evaluations of Iowa child abuse and criminal records, including the sex offender registry, shall be completed before the person's involvement with child care at the center.
109.6(6) Record checks. d. National criminal history checks (3) The child care center shall provide fingerprints to the department of public safety prior to a person's involvement with child care at the center.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed did not have the record checks completed as required. The Iowa record check has not been

approved prior to the staff starting at the center. The center director reports this is in process subsequent the visit. The national record check was not completed until subsequent this visit and is also now in process.

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.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed did not have the physical completed pre-employment as required.

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.
1. Emergency plan postings missing in several locations of the building (doorway both sides between prek/school age room and twos/threes room, back exit door from toddler room, back exit door from nursery).

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
1. Playground inspections not documented for 4/2023 through 6/2023.

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.
1. Staff are using the hand washing sink to prepare bottles in the nursery. Hand washing sink shall not be used for food/bottle preparation activities.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consultation has been provided to the center regarding the updated rules regarding combining different age groupings of children and what is allowed and when. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure they are in compliance.

1. School age activity plan is needed and should be posted (noted previously).
2. Ensure general summary of activities is included on all daily sheets for children under two years old.
3. Kitchen area sink needs a hand washing poster (noted previously).

The center will continue with a full license. The center is directed to correct the items cited and the items noted above in this section of the report and to submit a written summary to the licensing consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. The written summary shall be submitted within 30 days of receipt of this evaluation. Thank you.

*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.