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

Name of Center: Unity Point Childcare **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51929

Street: 2720 Stone Park Blvd **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51104 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 2720 Stone Park BLVD, Sioux City, IA, 51104

Director's Name: Shannon Finch **Phone Number:** 712-279-3579

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** Shannon.Finch@unitypoint.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-08-2023

Licensing Visit **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:** 08-11-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-09-2022

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 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	23	13	19		55
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-15-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 06-08-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was made to center on 06-08-23 where I met with new center director Shannon Finch as Denita Pirie stepped down. Shannon has a two year degree in Early Childhood and 10 years working in childcare centers. Ms. Finch started as director 02-03-23. The program opened
08-15-22 in a space remodeled specially for childcare in the Unity Point Hospital. The program provides childcare from 6 weeks to age 5. Once a child goes into kindergarten then they have graduated from the center. The center had partnered with Theodore Academy Childcare for support and guidance which ended in May 2023. The center is licensed for a capacity of 55 children. Hours of the center is 6:30am to 7:30pm Monday thru Friday. The program primarily serves hospital staff.

There are 30 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 18 children present. 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 center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families during this time. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

The program has 5 rooms. They are currently using 4 of the 5 rooms. Each room was observed to be clean with no issues due to maintenance. Sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room is arranged so that there are no blind areas and the children have ample room to move and play in activity centers. The toys and materials present were appropriate to the ages of the children present in the classrooms and are new. Each room has a daily schedule on a white board, and should also be posted at the door. Program changed from Highscope to Creative curriculum. The program recently started using the Playground app to help streamline administrative duties.

The playground is a fenced in area with a new playground equipment with rubber squares for surfacing. When putting in the new playground equipment there is a balance beam which was put in to close to the climbing equipment which is a safety hazard. Center should take balance beam out all together or move it away from the climbing equipment. The balance beam also seems high for a balance beam and if kept needs to be lowered closer to the ground. There is a grassy area for the children to run and play. Center has shade. Monthly playground inspections needs to be completed. Radon testing needs to be completed in each child occupied room. Yearly furnace inspection also needed to be completed. Emergency fire and tornado drills also needs to be logged. The center handbooks contain all required policies.

The two infant room have sufficient amount of toys and equipment in the room. Children have access to a changing table and sink. The 6 weeks to 6 month room has a sink for bottling prepping and one for hand washing. Daily sheets of diaper, feeding, and nap time as well as any communication with parents are documented on the new playground app.

Meals are provided by Unity Point Hospital. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Menus were posted in an area visible to parents. Although the center follows the CACFP they are currently not on the food program. The program offers, breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as an afternoon snack. The center has a kitchenette to meal prep for the children and the children eat their meals in their room. Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Good

food storage practices were observed.

Medication is stored in a lock box. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills need to be documented each month. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

The center does not transport.

Goals of the center are to get on the IQ4K program, new riding toys for playground and relocate or remove the balance beam, and implement a preschool program for ages 3-5 year olds.

Strengths of the program is they feel have a good staff who work well as a team as well as good relationship with the families that they serve. They also have staff who do PRN who will come in either for extra help or if staff need time off.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has the support and collaboration with CCRR and Theodores Academy Childcare if needed.

The program uses Creative curriculum.

The program uses Playground when communicating with parents as well as administrative duties.

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.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
Program needs to either relocate or remove the balance beam as to close to climbing structure and if kept lower it to the ground.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program director will email consultant by 07-30-23 confirming that all items that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.