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

Name of Center: Nisse Preschool and Kids Place **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18229

Street: 311 College Dr **City:** Decorah Iowa **Zip** 52101 **County:** Winneshiek

Mailing Address: 311 College Dr, Decorah, IA, 52101

Director's Name: Karen Frick **Phone Number:** 563-382-4794

On-Site Supervisor(s): Karen Frick **E-Mail:** director@nissepreschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-15-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 11-28-2023

Comments : Compliance on 12/13/23

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	29	0	29
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-20-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/15/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Nisse Preschool and Kids Place in Decorah. I met with Emily Secor, the office administrative person. She plans to be the director soon. Ms. Secor started with the program in August 2023. Karen Frick is the interim director and lead teacher. She started with the program in September 2019. She has a BA and an AA in early childhood and was previously employed by Head Start. Ms. Frick is a NAEYC member. Laurie "Laura" Betts and Janessa "Nessa" Stoen are the assistants in the room. The program also employs three extended care staff members who are Luther College students.

The program is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:45 am until 5:30 pm and serves preschool-aged children. The program partners with the Decorah Community School system to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant. The four-year-old program meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 am until 1:15 pm. The center also provides a three-year-old preschool program. The three-year-old program meets on Thursday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am. Extended childcare is offered at the completion of the preschool programs. There are a total of 37 children enrolled in the childcare center.

The program operates out of one large room. An inspection of the room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with pictures of the children and their families. The room is also decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, puppets, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

Cots are used to nap for the children who stay for extended care.

There are two bathrooms available for the children. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. Children must be potty trained to attend the program.

The four-year-old preschool program uses Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. GOLD assessments are completed on each child, and they follow the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). They also use the Wilson Foundations literacy program, Second Step, Read It Again curriculum and a math curriculum. They also follow the Early Learning Outcomes (ELO) to prepare the children for school. Creative Curriculum is also the primary source for creating lesson plans for the three-year-old program, but other resources are also utilized. Activities are developed around studies. The length of time spent on each study depends on the children's interest level. Nisse Preschool uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. The program partners with Keystone AEA to work with children who have identified needs. A newsletter is provided to parents in the four-year-old program each week and to parents in the

three-year-old program each month.

The four-year-old children take field trips, and they use a school bus for transportation and go on walking field trips. The three-year-old preschool class takes walking field trips.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program door and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of playground inspections. A radon test was completed in December 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. A radon mitigation system was put in after high radon levels were detected in the past. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the microwave. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/28/23, with compliance on 12/13/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The program serves a morning snack and lunch to the preschool children and an afternoon snack is provided to the children in extended care. Parents can purchase lunch from the Winneshiek Medical Center or parents can provide a lunch from home for the children. The program can supplement the meals from home if necessary. A volunteer picks up the lunches and delivers them to the childcare center. Lunch is delivered individually packaged. The center provides milk. Lunch menus were posted.

Snacks are provided by the parents in the morning and by the center in the afternoon. Snacks are documented on a calendar. There were several days when snack has not been documented. You must document both the morning and afternoon snack every day. Disposable products are used. There are sinks available in a storage room to wash dishes using the three-step method when necessary. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. There is a refrigerator on site and thermometers were present. Allergies were posted.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

There is a child on a prescription medication. Staff must document the time the medication is given.

The playground is a fenced area. Poly Extruded Matting (PEM) provides the cushion surfacing. The PEM Playground Matting has shredded rubber contained in chambers. There is a slide and a bicycle merry-go-round for the children. There is also a sandbox, sensory table, basketball hoop, a playhouse, woodworking, blocks and transportation items. A picnic table and two benches in this area for the children to rest. The program purchased a new white board for art. You need to fence off the air condition unit so children do not have access.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. I have emailed a posted for Ms. Secor to update my contact poster. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children. They made the learning environment fun and inviting. Staff members are enthusiastic and it came across in how they taught and interacted with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles within the classroom and know what to expect from one another. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members change out centers routinely so that children do not get bored. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Child friendly music was playing. Children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Secor states the community is supportive of the program.

Ms. Secor states they are lucky to have three teachers in the classroom.

Ms. Secor states their location in town is useful.

Ms. Secor states the expenses for parents are reasonable.

Ms. Secor states the Brightwheel app allows for parent communication and they also use it for billing. Parents can look at

what they owe at any time and parents typically use auto withdrawal and pay through the app. The app has streamlined the process.

Ms. Secor states she is learning a lot from the staff members. She meets with the preschool teachers on Wednesday afternoons and she checks in with the extended care staff members at least once a week.

Ms. Secor states the program sets a routine and the children know what to expect.

Ms. Secor states the teachers demonstrate good manners and communication skills.

The classroom is decorated with a variety of the children's art projects.

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 10/31/26.

Keystone AEA provides has a media library and van delivery for the program.

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

109.10(3)b: For every day an authorization for medication is in effect and child is in attendance, there shall be a notation of administration including the name of medicine, date, time, dosage, given or applied, and the initials of the person administering the medication or the reason the medication was not given.
You must document the time the prescription medication is given.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking. Snacks are documented on a calendar. There were several days when snack has not been documented. You must document both the morning and afternoon snack every day.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.