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

Name of Center: Isaac Newton Christian Academy Pre-K **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25048

Street: 1635 Linmar Dr NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 1635 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Anna Schneider **Phone Number:** 319-362-9512

On-Site Supervisor(s): Anna Schneider **E-Mail:** aschneider@incaonline.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-27-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-09-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other 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			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 10-04-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Isaac Newton Christian Academy Pre-K and Pre-K Extended Care Program (INCAP) is part of a nonprofit organization governed by the Linn Christian Education Association. INCAP is located inside Isaac Newton Christian Academy. The program has been in operation since 1989. Specifically, INCAP offers a morning Pre-K program (8:15am to 11:15am) as well as childcare for Pre-K aged children outside of morning Pre-K hours. Current enrollment is 20.

INCAP director is Anna Schneider. Ms. Schneider has been the program director since July, 2020. Ms. Schneider has a MA degree in educational leadership, over 12 years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/27/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

INCAP is a well established program offering a variety of services (Pre-K programming, extended lunch program, and all day childcare for enrolled Pre-K children) to help meet the educational needs of families and children. The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a predominantly urban community.

Isaac Newton Christian Academy and INCAP have the following website for families and the community to access information about the program: https://www.incaonline.org/.

The mission of Isaac Newton Christian Academy and INCAP "...is Developing Christlike Character and Academic Excellence. We do this through consistent and comprehensive incorporation of Biblical principles. In a Christ-centered, loving environment, the student will achieve academic excellence and individual character development as well as mental, physical and spiritual growth. The result will be a well-educated, caring student ready and able to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in the community..."

Isaac Newton Christian Academy has been in operation since August 1989 and is celebrating their 35th year of providing a Christian learning opportunity to the community. Isaac Newton Christian Academy is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). The school is accredited at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. First accredited in 2013, the school was unanimously approved by the ACSI Regional Accreditation Commission for a full 5-year renewal of accreditation again in 2019. This accreditation establishes Isaac Newton Christian Academy as an educational institution which meets the high standards necessary for quality education in an authentic Christian setting. Ms. Schneider indicated the Isaac Newton Christian Academy Pre-K has been included into the accreditation.

Isaac Newton Christian Academy and INCAP operate under a Board of Directors. Management and ownership of the program has remained consistent and seasoned. This includes head of school Dean Ridder, director of early education Ms. Schneider, school office personnel and lead Pre-K teacher Ms. Riggs. The management team has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. The management team

is knowledgeable of licensing regulations as well as their own policies and procedures. Ms. Schneider has been with INCA for over 6 years and is beginning her 5th year in the director role. Ms. Schneider discussed positive family feedback including high child retention having 85-90% of Pre-K children enrolling in kindergarten. Ms. Riggs began her third year of Pre-K teaching as she has began in this position fall 2022. Ms. Riggs has a MA degree in reading and a BA degree in elementary education with an endorsement in dyslexia. Ms. Riggs discussed brining "the bees" back into this year's curriculum and continuing to find ways to incorporate literacy. The program offers a regular Pre-K family letter, job duty chart, clean-up timer, many visuals to enhance staff/child program communication, and scheduling/timing of end of Pre-K backpack preparation.

INCAP continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program center, offers regular program newsletters, offers an all-school weekly newsletter called "Newton News", utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included annual fundraising opportunities (Newton's Pies), spirit days, Grandparent's Day, Christian College Day, back to school carnival, and parent/program conferences. Ms. Schneider discussed how staff continue to do a great job building relationships with and connecting with families.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Since the last review, security enhancements were made and new outdoor picnic tables installed. .School personnel (e.g. custodial staff, administrators, Board of Directors, nurse and kitchen food service persons) help ensure the space used by the children is sanitary and hazard free throughout the day. There is an AED on-site. Pre-K children have access to the school lunch program. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. Ms. Schneider talked about how having much support the program has from the administration.

In 2023, the Pre-K classroom was completely renovated with new cabinets, new flooring, new windows, new drywall with fresh paint, and many new furnishings. The classroom remains pristine and extremely well-organized keeping learning at the forefront. Curriculum is uniquely blended to include reading readiness, emphasizing math skills, and presenting units in many disciplines (e.g. social studies, science, music, technology, art, physical education). Curriculum continues to also include on-site guest speaker events, off-site field experiences, and enrichment activities. Ms. Riggs discussed how some groups of children are reading before advancing into kindergarten. Ms. Schneider acknowledged positive family feedback as evidenced in outstanding retention.

INCAP has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. INCA has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County flood, 2019 Polar Vortex, 2019 health (COVID-19) pandemic, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

INCAP collaborates well with community agencies including local businesses, various school districts, local higher education entities, and health professionals. Through these partnerships, Pre-K children are able to participate in early screenings including hearing and vision screenings.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Upon arrival, families and children were warmly greeted by Mr. Ridder and Ms. Schneider for over-sized "high-5s" and wishes of a good school day. Ares of study in the Pre-K room included spirit week. Activities observed were many (e.g. morning discussion, math work, calendar, center play experiences with free crafting and Lego building). Very clever highly enjoyed counting as a "teenager" activity! Children were observed to have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, writing/crafting) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack routines) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.