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

**Name of Center:** Wee Blessings Preschool **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28769

**Street:** 420 Central Ave NW **City:** Orange City Iowa **Zip** 51041 **County:** Sioux

**Mailing Address:** 420 Central Ave NW, Orange City, IA, 51041

**Director's Name:** Morgan Swier **Phone Number:** 712-737-4909

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** **E-Mail:** ocweeblessings@gmail.com

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

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 11-26-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 06-15-2023

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:** **Child Care** X **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 | | | 16 | | 16 |
| 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:** Jana Drew **Date:** 11-22-2024

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

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

Visited the center on 11-19-24 and spoke with Paige DeJong as Morgan Swier, director was not present. Ms. Swier has fifteen years of experience working with children and a degree in Elementary Education. Ms. DeJong also has an Elementary Education Degree and several years working with preschool children. Wee Blessing Preschool is located in the First Reformed Church in Orange City. They hold two classes each day: Monday thru Friday 8:15am to 11:00am and 12:30pm to 3:00pm for four year olds. Mornings only on T-Th 8:15am to 11:00am for three year olds. Program follows the MOC school district for weather. The program started 09-03-24 for the 2024/2025 school year and will end the school year on 05-08-25.

There are 52 children enrolled in the program(14 - 4 year olds, in the am and 16 - 4 year old in the pm. There are 13 in the am and 9 in the pm for 3 year olds.) The center continues in cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, and engaging the children in activities. The center utilizes Christian Based Curriculum. The center has security system to the doors to where parents can come in with a fob or staff let them in the door. Center mirrors what the local schools use to communicate with their parents which is the Class Dojo app.

Refrigerator is clean. Nutritious snacks are brought by parents each day. Program does have snacks on hand in case parents forget to send and are stored properly. Center gives parents a list of approved snacks that they can bring. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Center does not administer medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test. Annual heating was complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
None

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The church bus is utilized for field trips (pumpkin patch, various places in town). Parent permission forms are completed for children who leave the center for field trips. They have not done any field trips in the last couple years, except maybe to go on a walk.

Goals of the center is to provide assistance to the children in learning to be all on the same learving level, being independent and improving social skills.

Strengths of the program is that staff have a good relationship with the children and parents they serve and have a strong support from their board members. They also have good collaboration with the local school kindergarten teachers.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Center has staff who are experienced and have education working with children. Good communication with staff and parents. Active board who reinforces staff for retention.

Center sends home a newsletter each week to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

Center has parent/teacher conferences once a year in February or March but does a progress report in the fall and spring to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

Center has a Facebook page for parents. Only parents can access this page.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

The classroom is well organized.

Display children's art work in the room.

Picture schedule of daily activities for the children

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

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

HHS checklist sent as a tool for self audit.

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.