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

**Name of Center:** Adventures Preschool **Enrollment:** 27 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18063

**Street:** 2622 Lincoln Way **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50014 **County:** Story

**Mailing Address:** 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA, 50014

**Director's Name:** Jill Strawhacker **Phone Number:** 515-292-1736

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Jamie O'Donnell **E-Mail:** info@adventurespreschool.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 02-01-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-16-2021

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-15-2021

**Comments :** Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

**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 | | | 22 | | 22 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 4

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Debbie Hammer **Date:** 02-14-2023

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

N/A.

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

An off-year licensing visit was conducted on 2/1/23. The director was present throughout the visit.

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 playground was snow covered.

This co-op preschool has been in existence since 1968. They meet on the second floor of the Collegiate United Methodist Church. Jill Strawhacker has been the director since 2008. She has prior experience as a center director, and meets the requirements to be the director at this program. Jamie O'Donnell is the on-site supervisor as of the 2020 school year. Jamie has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and prior experience working in a daycare center. Jamie meets qualifications to be the on-site supervisor. Part of being a co-op preschool requires the parents to volunteer to help in the classroom.

This preschool is for combined age groups of three, four, and five year old children. There are two sessions available. Children can attend M/W/F mornings, or they can attend Tu/Th mornings. The center has also started to offer preschool M-F, where children can attend every day if the parents choose this, in the morning. The program operates from 8:45-11:45 am. The program is a school year only program, operating from September through May.

Jill plans and prepares the curriculum, and the parent volunteers are there to help. This program is very dependent on the parents and their help. Two parent volunteers help each day. Parents sign up for when they will work, and it averages out to be about five or six times a year. Criminal history checks and fingerprints are done on at least one parent or relative who will be helping out in the preschool. None of these parent volunteers are allowed to work without the background checks being completed.

The program is held in two adjoining rooms. The smaller room has tables that are used to prepare and eat snacks. The tables are also used for arts and crafts and writing activities. There is a reading area, a water table, and floor space for doing puzzles. There are two sinks in this smaller classroom.

The larger room is used for dramatic play, sand table play, and lots of room for building and creating with the large supply of big wooden blocks.

The bathrooms are located in the hallway outside the preschool area. Children are always escorted to the bathrooms.

The program is going to conduct a two week camp this coming summer, just from 9 am to 12 pm for only two weeks.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The program continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19. In January of 2022, the program started allowing parent volunteers in the classroom again, they only have one parent volunteer a day. Every parent is on the parent board or on a committee.

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

The center has a QRS rating of 4 stars, based on a 1-5 rating system.

This is a well established preschool that consistently provides a high quality program to the families they serve. They have an excellent relationship with the parents because of the co-op piece of their program. This also helps the parents to get to know each other and develop their friendships outside of the preschool. This a a unique program and one of only a few in the State.

The center has held successful fund raising events and have been able to purchase items for the classrooms every year based on the fundraising. The fundraising for this year will go toward a new outdoor playground space. The center is working toward being certified as an Outdoor Classroom Nature Space. They are hoping to use space on the church property as their new outdoor play area that will be green space.

The center sends out a monthly newsletter.

The curriculum is well rounded and meets the physical, emotional, and developmental needs of the children. They loosely use Creative Curriculum and are constantly fine tuning and introducing new things into their theme based curriculum. The books, activities, art projects, and even snacks will all relate to the theme they are working on. Most activities are child directed.

The center is involved in the WAGES program.

The center added a shade structure to the playground over the sand box.

The center put in new windows in both classrooms.

The center uses PBIS and the director has gone through recent PBIS training.

There is a waiting list for both preschool sessions.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing is required every two years. The center completed radon testing in January of 2022. The levels were below the 4.0 cutoff.

*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.