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

Name of Center: Sonshine Station Preschool **Enrollment:** 24 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30182

Street: 5601 Sunnybrook DR **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51106 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 5601 Sunnybrook DR, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Emily Stephas **Phone Number:** 712-224-5611

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

Date(s) of Visit: 02-06-2025

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:** 01-17-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-11-2024

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			48		48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 02-07-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited Sonshine Station Preschool on 02-06-25 and spoke with Emily Stephas, director. In September 2023 Emily Stephas became director. Emily was the teacher for the last couple of years. Emily has been with the program since 2022 and lead teacher. Emily has her BA degree in Psychology and Human Services. She has also been a para for 4 years prior to coming to Sonshine Station PS. Sonshine Station Preschool is located in a wing of the Sunnybrook Community Church that was built specifically for preschool. They utilize two rooms in the church. This school year the program is only providing morning preschool and no afternoon classes. Hours of operations this school year is Monday through Friday 9:00am-11:30am. Monday, Wednesday, Friday for 4year old preschool and Tuesday/Thursday 3 year old preschool. They are only using one of the rooms for classroom time and the other for a recess room.

There are 24 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit 15 (3/4 year old) preschoolers were present. There are 9 (4/5 year olds) in the Monday, Weds, and Friday, and 15 (3/4 yr olds)Tuesday/Thursday class. 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, and children's artwork and the alphabet. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum and Theme based. The center follows the Sioux City School District for weather related early out or closures. The program is on the IQ4K Childcare Program at a level 2.

Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature. Nutritious snacks are usually brought by parents each week. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition, although they are not currently on the food program.

Center does not administer medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon tests was complete and within normal range as well as the annual heating inspection. 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.

The center has a fenced-in playground adjacent to the church. When they are unable to get outside they just stay in the classroom but utilize the other preschool classroom that is not being used for large motor activities. There is shade on the playground. Wood chips are spread throughout the play area. The program added a climbing structure, however, this past week it was vandalized and the slide is broke. Ms. Emily is aware of the broken slide and already has a work order in to have it fixed. It is recommended to not have children play on the equipment until it is fixed. Ms Emily plan already was to not have the children go out to the playground until the slide is fixed. The center does not transport the children. However, does do a field trip to Dorthy Pecault in April to where parents bring their child there and stays with them.

Goals of the center are to obtain the Bright Wheel or Playground Childcare app as well as to get on the IQ4K level 3.

Strengths are that the center staff work well as a team and enjoy working with the children. The parents of the program are actively involved and they have good communication with them. They have a student teacher who feels that the children do alot for the time that they are at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is on IQ4K program at a level 2 out of 5.

Center sends home a newsletter each month as well as email parents to inform them of what is going on in the program.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

Center has child size furniture throughout the room.

Picture schedule of daily activities for the children.

Very positive interaction with the children.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: Information was missing.

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: 3

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended to continue working with CCRR for support.

Please email consultant by 03-06-25 confirming that all aspects have been corrected.

A full license is recommended.

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.