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

Name of Center: Serendipity Preschool **Enrollment:** 73 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28276

Street: 1100 Gordon AVE **City:** Norwalk Iowa **Zip** 50211 **County:** Warren

Mailing Address: 1100 Gordon AVE, Norwalk, IA, 50211

Director's Name: Sara Cross **Phone Number:** 515-981-0901

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

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-02-2024

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

Date Inspected: 08-28-2023

Comments : Norwalk Fire Department

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			60		60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 08-20-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Serendipity Preschool has been in operation since 1974. The preschool is located within the Norwalk United Methodist Church. The preschool uses it's own entrance. The classroom door is locked. The preschool offers programming to children ages three to five years. Sara Cross has been the director since 2015. Sara has a BA in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Special Education. She was a teacher for several years prior to coming to the preschool.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules and standards were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the entrance. Schedules and lesson plans are posted. There is a large classroom which is and also a smaller classroom. Classrooms are well supplied with labeled interest centers, age appropriate learning supplies, toys and furnishings. The smaller classroom is used for a five year old classroom. Children's artwork is displayed on walls.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. Sara was present today and she assisted with today's visit. A four's classroom was observed today. There were two teachers working with this class. There were twenty children present. Children were observed in the classroom and outdoors. Children were observed during large group time. The class was reading a book together. Staff was asking questions about the book as a group. Interactions between the staff and children were observed to be positive throughout the visit.

The preschool serves snack during programming. Menus reviewed showed compliance with CACFP requirements. The preschool is able to use the church's kitchen for food storage. The kitchen is clean and food storage is sufficient.

The preschool has an outdoor playground. There is fencing around the playground. Rubber mulch is in place for surfacing material. Monthly playground checks are completed.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Sara has been the director at the preschool for several years and the preschool benefits from her experience and leadership. Sara has NAC certification. The center participates in IQ4K and has a four star rating. The preschool partners with the local public school system for the Universal PreK preschool program. The preschool receives Warren County Empowerment funding. The classroom is well furnished with many well developed learning centers. The preschool has an outdoor playground.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

The center's capacity has been increased to 60 in August 2024.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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