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

Name of Center: Sonshine Station Preschool **Enrollment:** 28 **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: 01-11-2024

X **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:** 01-08-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-20-2023

Comments : Emily Stephas is the new director effective 09-01-23 as Julie Perryman had resigned.

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: N/A

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:** 01-12-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited Sonshine Station Preschool on 01-11-24 and spoke with Emily Stephas new director as Julie Perryman resigned. 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 28 children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit 8 (3/4 year old) preschoolers were present. There are 18 (4/5 year olds) in the Monday, Weds, and Friday, and 10 (3/4 yr olds)Tuesday/Thursday class.. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center also 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.

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. At the time of the visit the playground was not viewed due to 11" of snow. The center does not transport the children.

Goals of the center are to obtain the Bright Wheel Childcare app; get on the IQ4K program, and complete trainings in PBIS & food nutrition. They are also looking updating their playground with new climbing structure and surfacing.

Strengths are that the center staff work well as a team and enjoy working with the children. The children also has lots of choices of activities in the classroom.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center has a QRS(Quality Rating System) rating of five stars out of five, however QRS expired in September 2023. The program is looking at level 2 on IQ4K program which is replacing the QRS program.

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)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: 2
staff's universal precaution training expired.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please email consultant by 02-09-24 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.