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

Name of Center: Sonshine Preschool **Enrollment:** 24 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16467

Street: 700 E Olive ST **City:** Marshalltown Iowa **Zip** 50158 **County:** Marshall

Mailing Address: 700 E Olive ST, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Kari Hancock **Phone Number:** 641-753-3082

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** kari@journeymtown.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 09-13-2024

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

Date Inspected: 08-18-2022

Comments : Fire inspections due at least every three years; completed by Marshalltown Fire Dept.

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			70		70
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 09-30-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full-licensing visit was completed 9/25/24. The director was present through the visit.

Sonshine Preschool was started in 1991 and continues to meet in the church, which is now called Journey. The preschool is affiliated with the church, and they work closely together. Kari Hancock became the director in Aug, 2024. Kari has a bachelor and master's degree along with several child care related trainings; she also has prior child care experience. She meets the criteria for director.

The program offers preschool Monday-Thursday 8:45 AM to 11:45 AM, during the school year (Sept through May) for ages three to five years.

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.

Room observations/activities: The preschool in now using mainly 2 classrooms, however can use two additional preschool classrooms if needed. These classrooms are all located in the same hallway/area of the church. The program can also use the large gym for indoor large motor play. The preschool uses Creative Curriculum and the Bright Wheel application to communicate with parents. There is also a teacher created religious component. Each room is well stocked with a variety of centers/activities. Staff maintained structure of the rooms and were responsive to the children while leading a group activity.

Nutrition Practices: Snack is provided. There is access to a kitchen in the church. Snacks are in-line with CACFP guidelines and served family-style in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: Medication is kept secured in the Director's office. Handwashing posters were hung. Classrooms have a first aid kit each. Emergency exit plan diagrams were posted. Radon testing was completed 3/2022 and all tested rooms were below 4.0 cutoff level for safety. The heating and cooling system is maintained by the church. There are carbon monoxide detectors in each classroom. This center was nicely organized and very clean.

Playground: The playground was enclosed by chain link, located on the same property but to the south of the center. There are play structures that were in good repair; there was shade provided by the play structures and surfacing is wood chips. The playground is shared with the community and church members.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were all present and up-to-date. Five child files were reviewed and did need emergency dental

information; Four staff files were reviewed with one staff file missing a national background. The director recently took over the position and is working to organize and update child and staff files.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a well established program in the community.

The teachers are experienced and caring people.

The Director and the teachers are invested in their program; they are caring and nurturing toward the children and work well together.

The preschool receives support from the church and is a ministry of the church.

The preschool has a secure entrance.

The classrooms have strong structure and lesson plans, that also incorporate play.

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.

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: 5

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers and toys; the teachers were observed to maintain good structure and engagement in the the room.

A two-year license is recommended.

*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.