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

Name of Center: Grace Preschool **Enrollment:** 57 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 26611

Street: 3700 Cottage Grove AVE **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50311 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3700 Cottage Grove AVE, Des Moines, IA, 50311

Director's Name: Ashley Wissler **Phone Number:** 515-279-5942

On-Site Supervisor(s): Janet Reynolds, Rachel Wilke-Shapiro, Julie Sahlin, Johanna Campbell **E-Mail:** CoreenWitke@gracedesmoines.org ashleywissler@gracedesmoines.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-06-2023

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:** 02-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-21-2022

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	12	52	15	79
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-06-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 2/6/23. The new director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Grace Preschool is located primarily in a lower level wing of the Grace United Methodist Church. There are four classrooms. The center serves children two years in age to roughly eight years in age (there is a school-age summer school component) using the Creative Learning Curriculum. The center is open year-round. Children typically can attend the center up until they are starting third grade. Some children attend full-day programming and some children attend part-day programming. Universal Preschool is also incorporated at the center.

The center is overseen by a church Board. The director of this center as of 5/2022 is Ashley Wissler. Ashley was previously an on-site supervisor. Ashley also has a BA degree in Early Childhood Education. There are four on-site supervisors - Janet Reynolds, Rachel Wilke-Shapiro, Julie Sahlin, and Johanna Campbell. All four individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisors.

During the visit, a couple classrooms were downstairs in the activity room doing large motor activities and being supervised by their staff members. In one classroom upstairs, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations throughout the room. Some children were doing art work with markers, colors, and scissors, Some children were playing with blocks. Staff again were engaged with children and their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center participates in QPPS. In addition, all staff are also involved with NAEYC and other local, state, and/or national organizations (AEA, T.E.A.C.H. Program, Wages Program, etc.).

The center is a QRS Level 4 which is based on best practice. The center is currently looking into IQ4K which will replace QRS.

Staff are required to get more than the DHS minimum requirements for annual professional training.

There is a parent advisory committee. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in center events/activities. Communication with parents is stressed in the form of weekly and monthly newsletters specific to each classroom as well as center-wide newsletters. The center also has a website as well as a Facebook page. The center also uses Pro-Care to communicate with families. Finally, two parent-teacher conferences are held each year.

Quarterly staff meetings are held.

There is an additional cleaning service crew that clean the center classrooms five days a week.

There is a portfolio and picture display outside of each classroom detailing recent activities.

Staff pictures and bios are posted outside classrooms.

The center participates in the food program (CACFP) and has a full-time cook.

The center serves a diverse population.

The center has access to an indoor gym area when weather does not permit outdoor play.

The center as well as families/children have access to a mental health office as well as a medical clinic that is located within the church.

There are a lot of tenured staff who work at this program. The director acknowledges good work through verbal praise, gift cards, etc. Staff may also be eligible for sick leave, raises, etc. The director has her staff do extra incentive/training pieces such as taking the "Strength Finder Quiz" and things of that nature.

Good child-staff interactions were observed. Staff stated they try to work together as a team and bounce ideas off of each other.

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 staff file did not have the approval letter .

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 medical: 1
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: Every child enrolled in child care needs to have a name, address, and phone number listed for a doctor and a dentist. One file was missing addresses and phone numbers.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years and was last tested in all classrooms starting on 1/6/23. However, results could not be verified so retesting is needed. Prior to the test in 1/2023, last testing occurred 1/19/21 - 1/21/21. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff at that time.

The HVAC system was last inspected 10/24/22

Most of the field trips are within walking distance and/or they promote parents transporting their own children. The center does have a bus that is used sparingly at other times for field trips.

IQ4K and I-Power were discussed at the visit.

It was noted that the center is currently exploring a new evacuation location if they ever need to leave the church as part of their Emergency Preparedness Plan. Some local agencies close by were brainstormed.

The staff tracking sheet was emailed to the director after the visit concluded.

The one staff will need to resubmit paperwork to DHS RCE Unit.

A new, full, 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.