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

**Name of Center:** Adventures Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18063

**Street:** 2622 Lincoln Way **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50014 **County:** Story

**Mailing Address:** 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA, 50014

**Director's Name:** Jill Strawhacker **Phone Number:** 515-292-1736

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Jamie O'Donnell **E-Mail:** info@adventurespreschool.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 01-22-2024

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-02-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-15-2021

**Comments :** Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

**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 | | | 22 | | 22 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-22-2024

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 1-22-24.. The director and OSS were present through out the visit.

This co-op preschool has been in existence since 1968. They meet on the second floor of the Collegiate United Methodist Church. Jill Strawhacker has been the director since 2008. She has prior experience as a center director, and meets the requirements to be the director at this program. Jamie O'Donnell is the on-site supervisor as of the 2020 school year. Jamie has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and prior experience working in a daycare center. Jamie meets qualifications to be the on-site supervisor. Part of being a co-op preschool requires the parents to volunteer to help in the classroom.

This preschool is for combined age groups of three, four, and five year old children. There are two sessions available. Children can attend M/W/F mornings, or they can attend Tu/Th mornings. The center has also started to offer preschool M-F, where children can attend every day if the parents choose this, in the morning. The program operates from 8:45-11:45 am. The program is a school year only program, operating from September through May.

The director plans and prepares the curriculum, and the parent volunteers are there to help. This program is very dependent on the parents and their help. Parents sign up for when they will work, and it averages out to be about five or six times a year. Criminal history checks and fingerprints are done on at least one parent or relative who will be helping out in the preschool. None of these parent volunteers are allowed to work without the background checks being completed.

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. The playground was snow covered.

Room observations/Activities: The program is held in two adjoining rooms. The smaller room has tables that are used to prepare and eat snacks. The tables are also used for arts and crafts and writing activities. The larger room is used for dramatic play, sand table play, and lots of room for building and creating with the large supply of big wooden blocks. Restrooms are located in the hallway outside the preschool area. Restrooms were clean and were fully stocked with necessary toiletries. Children are always escorted to the restrooms. Staff were in ratio and involved in leading group activities or greeting the children coming for the day. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys. There was a structure in the room and the children were content. Handwashing signs are posted and good handwashing techniques were observed.

Nutrition Practices--snacks are served family style in the AM; which are in line with CACFP guidelines.

Health and safety: Mediations are stored securely but easily accessible to staff in an emergent situation. First aid kits are available. Emergency plans were posted and drill were documented to have been completed monthly. Radon was tested Jan 2024 and results have not yet returned. The director will communicate the results when received. The church, which

houses this program manages boiler inspections which was competed and due again in 9/2024. There is a carbon monoxide detector which is integrated with the fire detection system.

Playground: The playground is located just adjacent to the church building and is enclosed by chain link and wooden privacy fence. There are play structures that provide shade as well. The playground checks were missing for Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec 2023. The playground was snow covered during this visit.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Postings with information on mandatory reporter; Handbook accessibility, consultant contact; license, Fire/Tornado exit plans and non-smoking signs were conspicuously available. Three children files were reviewed and 2 staff files were reviewed. Required information was found in those files.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center is working toward applying for IQ4K level.

This is a well established preschool that consistently provides a high quality program to the families they serve. They have an excellent relationship with the parents because of the co-op piece of their program. This also helps the parents to get to know each other and develop their friendships outside of the preschool. This a a unique program and one of only a few in the State.

The curriculum is well rounded and continues to meet the physical, emotional, and developmental needs of the children. The books, activities, art projects, and even snacks will all relate to the theme they are working on. Most activities are child directed.

The center is involved in the WAGES program and would like to continue/add..

The center uses PBIS and the director has gone through recent PBIS training.

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

There were not aspects of operation that fall below the standards reviewed.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing is required every two years. The center completed radon testing in January of 2022. The levels were below the 4.0 cutoff. Testing was again completed Jan/2024 and the director will communicate those results when received.

*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.