

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

Name of Center: Sioux Center Christian School **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50969

Street: 630 1st Ave SE **City:** Sioux Center **Iowa Zip** 51250 **County:** Sioux

Mailing Address: 630 1st Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA, 51250

Director's Name: Rebecca Vander Werf **Phone Number:** 712-722-0777

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** rvanderwerf@siouxcenterchristian.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-08-2024

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:** 03-11-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-23-2021

Comments : The program is adding a few more rooms for their 4Care(preschool) and school age programs. The program will utilize the gym(for summer program Tails n Trails), a lunch room(aftercare for school agers), Kindergarten room and TK class rooms. The program has no PK, TK or Kindergarten classes on Fridays, however, will provide childcare for those families that may need care during the school day on Fridays. Capacity is increased from 70 to 139.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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			17	122	139
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew

Date: 01-08-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was done on 03-27-23 at Sioux Center Christian-4 Care Kids preschool and afterschool program. I met with Rebecca Vander Werf, director for the program. Ms Vander Werf has a BA in Elementary Education and many years working with children. The program offers a variety of programs for the children they serve. 4 Care Kids preschool childcare program started in August 2020 and is located in a room designated in the Sioux Center Christian school. The program expanded their services beginning school year 2021 and serves preschool children(4/5 year olds) who are apart of a 1/2 day preschool program that are in need of childcare before and after preschool hours. The program serves the preschool kids for a morning session and an afternoon session. The program provides busing transportation and take or picks up children from their local 1/2 day preschool programs and transports them to their aftercare program. The children arrive at the school now at 8:00am to 11:30am and they eat lunch then are transported to 1/2 day preschool and then bring back another preschool group for lunch and kids then stay until the end of the school day at 3:00pm. If needed the program also offers extended stay for preschoolers from 3:00pm to 5:30pm and combines with the school agers aftercare program. This occurs Monday thru Thursday and then on Fridays 4-Care provides childcare for preschool children all day from 8:00am to 5:00pm due to no preschool on Fridays. Parents provide healthy snacks and the school provides hot lunch. Each child brings a water bottle which are cleaned daily. The children rest on mats which have a covering and center will wash bedding weekly. The program added school agers in February 2021 which increased capacity to 70. The school age program is K-5th grade and uses the cafeteria area. The school age program is only in the afternoon from 3:00-5:30pm Monday thru Friday. If there is no school then there are no programs. On Fridays there is also no classes for TK and Kindergartens so they offer childcare like the 4K kids on Fridays 8:00am to 5:00pm. Summer care program is called Tails and Trails for ages 5 to 11 years old for 9 weeks beginning 06-05-23 to 08-04-23. Summer program will have academics in the morning and field trips in the afternoon.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. 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 has been cleaning toys daily 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, children's artwork and the alphabet. The center utilizes theme based Curriculum. The center started the program and opened at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. The 4 -Care program started out for just preschool childcare and has since added aftercare school agers, Kindercare on Fridays for TK and Kindergarteners, and summer care Tails and Trails. Preschoolers merge with the aftercare program at the end of the day. The program follows the Sioux Center Christian School District for weather related closures. If there is a two hour late start there is typically no morning preschool and then they would provide childcare for the preschool aftercare children.

Documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills and playground inspections were complete. Radon was completed and within normal range. Annual Furnace inspection was also completed. The center does not give any medication at this time.

The program is not on the food program but does follow it. Parents provide snacks for the children, however, the program

provides lunch for the children.

In the summer, children bring their own lunches. The program will need to make sure lunches/snacks that children bring are healthy and are kept refrigerated to ensure proper food storage.

Fenced-in playground is next to the building which they share with the school. This playground has slides, trikes, balls, climbing equipment, and outside toys. Wood chips surrounds all the outdoor play equipment. They have access to an indoor gym during inclement weather. Playground has shade available. Due to the snow melting there were some underlying tarp on the playground surface that needs to be fixed to avoid tripping hazards. The school is responsible to handle the surfacing and the director will visit with the school to get that addressed.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips

Sioux Center Christian buses children to and from the aftercare program. Field trips will only be done during summer care and they will use a school bus.

Goals of program is to continue to expand the program to maybe have a wing in the building and offer 3 year old preschool/childcare.. Children have to be of preschool age by September 15 of age 4 to be eligible for the aftercare program. Next year the program will provide snacks for the 4 care program and Tails and Trails summer program. Look at getting on the IQ4K program.

Strengths of the program is that they are a play based learning program. Kids can be expressive in their play. Their curriculum is based on the children's interest. Staff work well as a team and have a good relationship with the families that they serve. Program communicates with their parents thru either texting or by using Bloomz app.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center has open communication with parents thru text or their Bloomz app.

Staff have experience working with children as most are paras with the school.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They actively played with the children, interacted with them at their level, provided praise and offered the children choices.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant confirming that those aspects that fall below standards have been corrected by 04-30-23.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center each 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.