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

Name of Center: Trinity Preschool & Childcare **Enrollment:** 67 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21504

Street: 4535 Kimball AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 4535 Kimball AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Carrie Nieman **Phone Number:** 319-883-3501

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kayla Ventura **E-Mail:** carrienieman@trinityepiscopalwaterloo.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-08-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 03-06-2023

Comments :

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: X 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	21	14	30	15	80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-23-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 08/08/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Trinity Preschool and Childcare in Waterloo. I met with Carrie Nieman, the director of the center. Ms. Nieman has an AAS in early childhood development and a BA in early childhood education. She has been working with the center since May 2006 and became the director in May 2011. Ms. Nieman is a NAEYC member. Kayla Ventura is the on-site supervisor. She started with the center in February 2020. She will complete her AA in child development in December 2023. There are eighteen staff members employed by the center.

Trinity Preschool and Childcare opened in September 2006 and is in the education wing of Trinity Episcopal Church. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. The center offers a preschool program during the school year for two-year-old, three-year-old and for four and five-year-old children. The core preschool class operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until noon. Parents have the option of choosing the three- or five-day preschool class. There are currently 67 children enrolled.

The program operates out of the following classrooms: Caterpillars (infants), Butterflies (12-24 months), Fireflies (two-year-olds), Bumble Bees (three-year-olds), Lady Bugs (four and five-year), and school-aged room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays are posted. There is an area for circle time in the classrooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, play dough, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. In the Ladybugs room you must secure the electrical cord for the lamp in the quiet corner, so children do not have access to it.

Creative Curriculum is primarily followed to create lesson plans in all rooms. Ms. Nieman also uses Handwriting Without Tears and Jolly Phonics in the preschool room and teaches phonic units. The center starts portfolios on all children once they are toddlers and the portfolios follow them through preschool. They complete assessments and objectives for each child. The do this at the beginning of the year and the end of the year to document the growth. They also have conferences with the parents twice each year. They also complete social-emotional assessments. The program has a center-wide theme, and each teacher creates their own lesson plan. They incorporate a Christian based curriculum into the lesson plans and participate in faith-based activities. Ms. Nieman states that each teacher is provided a flash drive and they post their lesson plans on the center's website for parents to review. Lesson plans were available for review. In the Butterflies room I would like to see more information on the lesson plan. They are currently only putting one activity for the entire day.

The Caterpillar and Butterflies rooms are using the Brightwheel app for daily sheets. The child's mood is documented under the notes section in the app. All the rooms use Brightwheel to communicate with parents daily. Each room can send the parents photos and videos.

There is a phone in each of the classrooms and emergency numbers were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was last completed in July 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. An inspection of fuel-burning appliances is not necessary because everything in the program is electric. A carbon monoxide detector is not necessary because no gas appliances are used. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 03/06/23.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Anjalie Kaduce is the cook. Ms. Nieman prepares a new menu each week. Infants and toddlers eat in their rooms and children ages two through school-age eat in the dining area. Family style is not used. Menus and allergies were posted.

The kitchen was clean and organized. There is an industrial refrigerator and an industrial freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There are four sinks available in the kitchen and a handwashing sink.

The center provides cereal and baby food for the infants. Parents provide the formula. Bottles are prepared in the room and are washed in the room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and a thermometer was present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed diaper changes and procedures are followed. I observed handwashing procedures and staff members assist children as necessary. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted where mandated.

The center has a fenced in outdoor play area that is divided into two spaces. One is for the younger children and one for the older children. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning in both areas. There is also a grassy area in both locations.

The area for younger children has small slides, a caterpillar tunnel, a sandbox, a water wall, basketball hoop, playhouses, dramatic play equipment and riding toys with a concrete riding path for the children.

The area for the older children has climbing equipment that offers slides and other activities. There is also a small climbing wall, a water wall, soccer nets, playhouses, teeter totter, basketball hoop and a sandbox. There is a storage container that holds balls, trucks, and pails. There is a concrete riding path for riding toys.

There is also a large grassy area outside of the fence that can be used. There are trees outside the fence that provide shade during certain times of the day and a tree has been planted inside the play area. A pergola shade structure is in the larger area. A garden box is also in the area.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. Staff members were expressive while reading books and included the children in the story by asking them questions. Staff members were flexible with their schedules to meet the needs of the children. Staff members talked with children about using their words to solve problems and positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members had a great teamwork and good communication. Staff members were patient and sang with the children to keep them busy while they were in line. Child friendly music was playing in rooms. Staff members sat on the floor to interact with the children at their level. Staff members were nurturing and held children on their laps. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is in a secured building. They are going to put cameras in each room and outside near each entrance and in the hallway. The cameras will be cloud-based and can record.

Ms. Nieman states they have low turnover with the children they serve.

Ms. Nieman states they did very well with scaffolding again this year. There were another five children reading in her

room. She credits the teachers before her who work with the children. Scaffolding is how the teachers support children's development and learning by offering the right help at the right time in just the right way.

Ms. Nieman states they have good parent support.

Ms. Nieman states the staff members step in to help when necessary.

Ms. Nieman states they try to provide the children with lots of experiences while they are in their care. They do this through field trips and water days. The church has a ten passenger van and staff members drive their own cars for transportation.

Ms. Nieman states they received grant money to buy new toys and activities for inside and outside.

The program is using the Brightwheel app in the infant room for daily sheets and it is used to communicate with parents in all rooms. It is also used to streamline the running of the center with the office needs.

The center uses Creative Curriculum and assess children throughout the year to insure they are learning.

The program works with Central Rivers AEA to assist children with identified needs. They recognize the needs of individual children and reach out to AEA and families to insure early intervention.

They promote strong literacy backgrounds.

The hallways are decorated with the children's art projects.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.