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

Name of Center: Great River Christian School & Preschool **Enrollment:** 15 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21194

Street: 426 Harrison Ave **City:** Burlington Iowa **Zip** 52601 **County:** Des Moines

Mailing Address: 426 Harrison Ave, Burlington, IA, 52601

Director's Name: Carrie Shride **Phone Number:** 319-753-2255

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** cshride@greatriverchristianschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-03-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-05-2021

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

Date Inspected: 05-24-2022

Comments : completed by Burlington Fire Department Mark Crooks, due annually

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 X Other 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			66		66
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 01-19-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Great River Christian School and Preschool is located in Great River Christian School in a residential area of Burlington. The building was a former elementary school. The program provides preschool for three and four year old children. After school care is also provided. I arrived at the center on 1/3/23 for an unannounced off year visit. The program was closed due to boiler issues so I met with School Principal Laura Francisco. Director Shride has held this position since 2022 and meets the 100 point requirement to be a Director. Ms. Shride had ten years of registered in home child care experience prior to teaching at Great River from 2018-2022. The center is located inside of Great River Christian School and the preschool rooms are located on the main floor and basement area of the building. She is the Assistant Early Education Director for GRCS.

The downstairs classroom is utilized by 3 year old children. The upstairs classroom serves 4-5 year old children.

The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Staff are aware of recommended sanitizing and disinfecting, temperature checks and social distancing recommendations.

Each classroom had age appropriate curriculum posted. Lesson plans were appropriate which included: active and quiet times, large-group activities, small group activities and time to play alone or with others, indoor and outdoor playtimes, and time for children to select their own activities and teacher directed activities. A wide variety of toys, educational games, puzzles, and books were available to the children to utilize. They were all in good condition. The environment was clean and well maintained. Classrooms were decorated with educational materials that were age appropriate.

Preschool Nutrition Practices:

The center chooses to participate in the CACFP Program. The centers had thermometers in all refrigerators and freezers. The center offers lunch. This meal is prepared by the school cook. The center rotates the menu monthly. Parents are expected to provide snack on a rotating basis. The center does have snacks on hand to supplement snack to meet CACFP guidelines. The preschool provides milk and juice for snack. Menus should be kept noting that each child was served a nutritionally balanced meal and snack as defined by CACFP guidelines.

Preschool Health and Safety:

Medications are stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. Medications are inaccessible to public and the center is able to provide documentation of medication given. Staff and children were observed hand washing and they followed recommendations from the IDPH for appropriate hand washing. All first aid supplies recommended by the IDPH were available in the centers first aid kits. Tornado and Fire Drills were practiced and documented once a month as required. Radon and heating annual testing were reviewed. A gas stove in the kitchen was installed in 2019. The Rheem gas hot water heater in the basement was installed in 2018. Both units will need an annual

fuel burning appliances inspection. A boiler inspection is also required. The center did have carbon monoxide detectors as required. Ventilation is good as the program has high ceilings.

Preschool Playground:

The center playground includes: merry cycle, swings, slides, painted concrete games, bicycles, little tikes toys, watering cans, rakes, shovels, picnic tables, jumping ropes and balls. Surfacing is provided by mulch. Gaps in the fence or places where it is loose on the bottom and should be secured in some manner so that it is not a potential entrapment hazard. Caps have been reinstalled on screws on the fence.

The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized to determine if children go outside to play in varying weather conditions. Emergency contacts and a first aid kit should be taken outdoors or to the gymnasium with the preschool.

Preschool Field Trips and Transportation:

The center chooses to offer field trips and only utilizes public transportation. They have visited the library, Stars Cave, fire station, and parks. First aid kits are taken along and field trip ratio is followed. Emergency contacts are taken as well as any emergency medication.

Preschool Administrative Records:

The following posting were available on the date of my visit: Mandatory Reporter, Handbook Availability, Consultant Contact, License, Emergency Procedures for fire and tornado, and no smoking signs. Child and staff files are reviewed each year. Children and staff files were somewhat in compliance. The program tracks child physicals to ensure outdated physicals are updated. Since another staff was added this year due to 3 year old ratios, she will have to take Essentials and other required training. Administration has already addressed immunization records/religious exemption issues. All policies and procedures were reviewed. The Director is typically very organized.

Curriculum, schedules and routines are followed daily. The preschool website states, "Through the exploration of activities meaningful to the individual child, learning becomes an adventure. Our Pre-School program for 3 & 4 yr. olds allows center exploration, intro. to letters and numbers, art, music, calendar and enrichment." The program offers Bible/Chapel, Arts & Crafts, Skills Development, Language Development, Character Development, Introduction to Phonics, Introduction to Numbers and Learning Centers.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ratio is excellent.

The center director and teachers work well as a team to ensure compliance with rules and regulations.

The center has been well maintained.

The center has visitors come to the center including: Nature Center and Art Center Staff.

Interactions:

1. Stay on top of any issues that arise. Step in and help correct/ reinforce when necessary. Encourage to cheer them on with the positives they display daily.

2.Encourage reading daily, playing with students at recess time.

3.We do chapel twice a month and the students are a big part of it by singing, answering questions, reciting verses.

Workforce Stability:

1. We do a lot of praying for our incoming staff. We have a summer get together and luncheon to welcome new teachers. To maintain we become a team with a monthly meeting with just the Early Education Dept. We have an all school teacher meeting every Wednesday after an early out. We talk a lot and encourage each other. We blend students for events so they know each other from other rooms. This allows the students to know the other teacher as well.

Workforce Skill Development:

1.I send around to their rooms reading materials that contain articles of interest. We try to attend conferences together and

ride together to them. Always working with them to solve problems, cheer their successes, compliment their progressive ideas to make the department better, and let them have ownership of their rooms.

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

1. 109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. All preschool staff or subs must have updated fingerprints. Director Carrie Stride emailed DHS on 1/17/23 stating, "I just mailed the fingerprints Express Mail, they will be there by 6:00pm tomorrow." (CORRECTED)

2. 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.
Medical and dental information should be added to files.
Number not in compliance for medical: 6
Number not in compliance for dental: 6

109.10(1)a Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. All student physicals should be updated within the past year. A few child physicals are outdated

3. 109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Lunch and snack items must meet CACFP requirements. Menus must offer both snack and lunch requirements set out by CACFP. The small refrigerator in the three year old classroom could pose as a toppling hazard (it's on a platform). It should be secured or moved to an area inaccessible to children.

A technical referral was made to CCR&R on 1/5/23 to assist in rectifying these issues. CCR&R Consultant met with the program on 1/17/23 to provide guidance on correction of these issues and to provide consultation on any other matter.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

This program has no record of validated complaints. Further it has a history of excellent staff to child ratios, curriculum and supervision practices. The past several years violations have been low due to Director leadership.

DHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant Nancy Granaman (Iowa Department of Public Health). Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. It is recommended the program contact CCNC Granaman and request she conduct an Injury Prevention Checklist1.

DHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Tabitha Copeland. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have.

*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.