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

Name of Center: Wee Ones Christian Preschool **Enrollment:** 12 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22852

Street: 420 1st Ave NE **City:** Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50441 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: PO Box 236, Hampton, IA, 50441

Director's Name: Mary Mollenbeck **Phone Number:** 641-456-8471

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** weeoneschristianpreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-25-2024, 04-04-2024

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

Date Inspected: 01-12-2023

Comments :

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			14		14
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-08-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Wee Ones Christian Preschool on 03-25-24 and again on 04-04-24 where I met with center director Mary Mollenbeck. Mary became the director beginning the 2020-2021 school year and is well qualified for the position having a BA, and prior experience in Early Childhood Education. The program is located in a single classroom at the Church Of The Living Word which used to be an elementary school in Hampton. The program is overseen by a board comprised of members of the host church. The program provides preschool programming only. The center has reduced the programming offerings and is currently providing only one session on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 3 year old children. There are currently 12 children enrolled in the program served by Mary as the lead teacher, and two assistant teachers, Elisa VanWest, and Sandy Aaron. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The layout of the building and classroom remain the same as in prior visits. The room was observed to be clean with no immediate concerns noted with regard to maintenance. Windows are located along the exterior wall providing natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and also serve as secondary emergency egress. Restrooms are located off the main corridor and children are escorted to the restroom as needed. There is a portable sink available in the classroom to facilitate hand washing if needed but it is not currently being used at this time. The room has a traditional school room design of a large open space that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement is such that it provides the children with ample room to move and play without creating any blind areas. Activity centers included dramatic play, group learning, puzzles and board games, science, reading, music, media, art, blocks, and experience tables.

Each center was well stocked with materials and toys that are appropriate to the ages of the children, and were observed to be in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. The program uses a curriculum that has a general learning focus, paired with specific number, letter, shape, color learning concepts, and also includes a faith based component. The children were not present on the day of the first visit and Mary was taking the opportunity to update the materials in the classroom to support the new focus of Deserts. Good interactions were observed during the time of the second visit when the children were present. All of the teachers were actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum and attending to the children's needs. This included joining the children in activities such as their self-directed center play, later when doing a teacher lead group activity, and when escorting children to the restroom. The program continues to use a positive behavior support system. All of the teachers work to focus on and recognize positive behaviors, use transition activities and routines to encourage positive behavior, and redirect children when needed.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. A first aid kit was observed to have a good supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center does not routinely administer medications but does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. Allergies plans were available for children with identified food allergies, but not for other allergies with one child having a diagnosed medication related allergy but no information on a response plan. While it is understood that the doctor would not prescribe that medication, and further the center does not administer medications it is still possible for a child to come into contact with an allergen and Licensing Standards does require that centers have allergy response plans for all identified allergies for that reason. Good cleaning

practices were observed with the teachers waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using cleaning products. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children. The teachers do escort the children to the restroom and provide supervision to ensure that they wash their hands. The teachers also washed their hands before handling food items as required.

The program does not provide meals due to the limited time frames that the children are present but snacks are provided and a menu is posted. Good food storage practices were observed with all foods properly stored in an air tight sealable food grade container as required once the original packaging seal had been broken. The teachers did eat with the children to provide supervision, model good eating habits, and engage the children.

The outdoor playground makes use of a manufactured woodchip product for fall surfacing which also meets ADA compliance requirements for handicapped accessibility. The wood chips have begun to compact and displace in heavy use areas such as entrances/discharge to slides, and kick zones of the swings. The need to either rake material back into fall zones or supplement the existing material to ensure a proper depth of material as required by the CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf). The issues regarding the fall zones for the swings being insufficient in the backswing continues to be present. Other areas available to the children include a large open field and a paved basketball court where the children can play outdoors. An indoor gymnasium is also available where they can play when the weather is not conducive to playing outdoors. Mature trees are present on the outdoor playground space to provide shade.

All required notices were posted in an area readily visible and accessible to parents. All required inspection certificates and logs were current and available. All staff and child files were reviewed. All child files had been updated and contained all required information with the exception of the issue previously noted for a child with a medication related allergy. In reviewing staff files for Mary, Elisa, and Sandy all needed to be updated for a current physical, background checks, and training certificates. Mary did report that by the time of the follow-up visit each had scheduled a renewed physical, she had submitted fingerprint cards for the national record checks and had done the Iowa SING checks, and staff were all working on updating training. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations

Mary did take immediate action to address those concerns identified with the employee files and has implemented steps to bring those files into compliance by submitting information, and scheduling appointments.

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: 3

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 3

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 3

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next 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.