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

Name of Center: Wee Wisdom **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25039

Street: 3500 29th Ave **City:** Marion Iowa **Zip** 52302 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 3500 29th Ave, Marion, IA, 52302

Director's Name: Michelle Heidelbauer **Phone Number:** 319-377-4689

On-Site Supervisor(s): Michelle Heidelbauer **E-Mail:** weewisdom.lcr@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-21-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 07-08-2020

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: 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			18		18
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-23-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Wee Wisdom Preschool is a nonprofit, Christian preschool sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The preschool is located inside the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Wee Wisdom Preschool operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:30am to 11:30am. The preschool offers programming to preschool-age children (age 3, 4, and 5-years-old). Current enrollment is 18.

Director of Wee Wisdom is Michelle Heidelbauer. Ms. Heidelbauer has been the director since 2010 (sole director vs co-director since fall, 2017). Ms. Heidelbauer has several years experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 2/21/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Wee Wisdom offers a 2-day and 3-day preschool program to preschool-age children and families in the community.

Wee Wisdom preschool has the following website for families and the community to learn about their program: http://www.weewisdommarion.org/home.html.

Wee Wisdom preschool's focus is "…on the educational, social, physical, and spiritual development of every student...We believe young children learn best through play...As educators, we work hard to create an environment where every student feels free to explore, create and experiment."

Director Ms. Heidelbauer is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as her own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Heidelbauer continues to establish systems of organization in effort to maintain administrative items as required. During the 2022-2023 preschool-year, Ms. Heidelbauer is celebrating her 12th year as director of Wee Wisdom. Congratulations! Ms. Heidelbauer has several years experience providing preschool learning and continues to participate in annual professional growth training. Program assistant staff has remained consistent.

Wee Wisdom collaborates well with community agencies and partners including local businesses, local school districts, and health professionals.

Wee Wisdom is a nonprofit, Christian preschool sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The program operates under a board of directors. Building and grounds are well-maintained. Church administration and custodial staff help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard-free each day. There is an AED machine on-site.

Wee Wisdom has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The preschool has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County historic flood, the 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event and the 2019 pandemic.

Wee Wisdom continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Preschool 2023-2024 enrollment is underway. Ms. Heidelbauer discussed future goals related to increasing outdoor signage/banner which was lost in the Derecho Storm.

Classroom continues to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Since the last review, the preschool has used a blended-age curriculum and increased purposeful play opportunities. Curriculum includes science units, literacy/phonics activities, the arts, math/STEM experiences, and social emotional components. Curriculum also incorporates on-site guest speaker events in the area of literacy, music, and yoga, virtual field trips (e.g. Cosmic Kids Yoga), and off-site field trip experiences including trips to the local fire station, local police department, and local nature center.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning supplies were observed in various areas on-site.

Upon entering the preschool room, one would feel as though they were being transported back 100 million years as the area of study was clearly noted as "dinosaurs"! Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families upon arrival for the day's preschool session. Children were encouraged to engage in gathering work activities followed by a large gross motor dinosaur walk experience and participation in "Do the Wiggle Dance". Group circle discussion included a clever math lesson on dino estimation and sorting ideas. Preschool play experiences offered were many (e.g. sensory letter tracing, easel painting, dinosaur coloring, dinosaur puzzle assembling, letter punch out activity, felt matching dinosaurs, dinosaur fossil making in magic sand and play dough, clever light table exploration of dino eggs with nests, matching dino fossils, marble volcano art, phonics/letter "V" game, dino cave creating, unique dino habitat/paleologist work). During preschool play, dinosaur inspired music could be heard quietly playing. Experiences were innovative, observed to be greatly peaking child interest, and allowing for one-on-one work as well as small group social skills! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were nurturing, attentive to the children's needs and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day as evidenced by engrossing participation, exploration and laughter.

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

109.7(2)b(2) Ongoing annual staff professional growth and development.
- One staff file (JF) reviewed lacked documentation of required annual professional growth 6 hours. Remedy.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
- Documentation of current radon testing was not found on the day of the monitoring visit. Ms. Heidelbauer reported updated radon testing will be conducted within the next week and results would be forwarded (via email) to licensing upon receipt.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of an annual fuel burning appliance inspection was not found on the day of the license visit. Ms. Heidelbauer reported she would be collaborating with the church to obtain this inspection and results would be forwarded (via email) to licensing upon receipt.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.