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

Name of Center: Over The Rainbow Preschool **Enrollment:** 29 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28422

Street: 101 E View Place **City:** Osceola Iowa **Zip** 50213 **County:** Clarke

Mailing Address: 101 E View Place, Osceola, IA, 50213

Director's Name: Linda West **Phone Number:** 641-342-3121

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sarah Gee **E-Mail:** lindakw1964@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-16-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-08-2022

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

Date Inspected: 04-01-2020

Comments : due every 3 years conducted by State Fire Marshall Wayne Brosham

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			24		24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 12-22-2022

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Over the Rainbow is faith based preschool located in the Immanuel Lutheran Church. The preschool program first started in 1983. The church owns the preschool, gives the program financial aid, and pays the rent and utilities. The one story brick church is located in a residential area of Osceola down a cul de sac. Doors are locked most of the day to provide security to the building. Linda West has been with this program since 2010, and was formerly the assistant director. Linda has completed the CDA program and meets the points required for the director position. She has directed this program since 2014. A new staff member was added to the program last year (Sarah Gee). I met with the Director on the visit.

On 12/16/22 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Over the Rainbow Preschool and observed all program areas at that time. The building is clean, bright, open, attractive and equipped with a wide variety of child sized furniture, equipment, toys and learning activities.

All program areas were observed during the visit. 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.

The four and five year old children attend four afternoons a week. Class is held Monday- Thursday from 12:15-2:45pm.

The three's and younger four year olds attend three mornings a week. Class is held T/W/Th from 8:45-11:00am.

Program Observations: The preschool utilizes their own room not used by anyone else except the preschool. Two bathrooms are attached to the classroom. If a large group of children need to use the bathroom, they can use the bathrooms in the main part of the church. Children must be potty trained before attending this program. The staff also has access to a large kitchen next to the preschool room. The preschool is able to use part of the kitchen and the hallway for storage purposes.

The children were observed to be engaged in age appropriate play and activities. The teachers interact in a warm and respectful manner with the children. They were also actively engaged in structured activities with the children. They use redirection when necessary. Activity centers are arranged around the perimeter of the room. Low shelves are used to separate the areas and to hold the supplies and materials for the different centers. The kitchen area is always a popular place to play and there is enough play food, dishes, pots and utensils that the children can get a lot of different scenarios going. Toys and equipment are rotated out. The room contains a computer, books, and games and puzzles to choose from for activities. The walls were decorated with art projects done by the children. Learning cues are displayed such as colors, numbers and letters. In years past we discussed tall cabinetry in the hallway should be anchored or removed so that they are not potential toppling hazards, that was corrected 3 years ago.

Once a week the children go to Chapel, where the Pastor has a short religious teaching for the children. This often may be a simple story with a life lesson and ends with a short prayer. The staff are with the children during this time.

The preschool utilizes a faith based curriculum called Faith Alive. They also incorporate Creative Curriculum into their program. They have weekly themes. A monthly newsletter is sent home that tells the parents about the upcoming themes, letters, shapes, etc. that they will be working on. The lesson plans are posted in the area where parents sign their children in each day so they can see what specifically will be taught throughout the week.

Each year they work on academic skills with the three year old students. They continue to work more on sharing and socialization skills. The program has always focused on academics with the four year old children and that continues to be a focus this year with this group of children.

Fall conferences are optional for the parents to attend. Spring conferences are also optional, and parents seem to be more interested in signing up to attend these conferences. Parents of the older pre-k children are strongly encouraged to attend the spring conferences. The preschool is not using any empowerment money for scholarships or any other type of support. They have used fundraising to be a self-supporting program.

Preschool NUTRITION:

This preschool does not participate in the federal food program. The children take turns bringing healthy snacks for friends. The preschool supplies the drink which is usually milk or juice. We discussed at length CACFP policies and adherence to these guidelines.

The preschool has access to a large church kitchen near the preschool room. The kitchen contains an oven, a microwave, a large sink area, a refrigerator/freezer and plentiful cabinetry. The preschool have snacks on hand they can serve in case a child forgets to bring the snacks, or if a snack needs to be supplemented with a credible food item. Food items are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. I did not observe food stored on the floor. No expired food items were found and no open food items were found. A thermometer is present in the refrigerator. Safe freezing temperatures are zero degrees or below. Safe food storage temperatures for cooling are 40 degrees or below. The refrigerator was clean and orderly.

Food waste containers should be covered.

Food allergies are identified at the beginning of the school year and posted.

Preschool HEALTH AND SAFETY:

I reviewed medication management, storage and administration. The preschool does not administer over the counter or daily medicines at preschool. No children are currently prescribed emergency medication such as Epi Pens or inhalers. Any medication should have a pharmacy or physician label intact and documentation for administration. All medication should be kept out of the reach of children. No children have medication at the program this year. We discussed Allergy Action Plans, when they are necessary and where to find the form on the IDPH website.

I reviewed storage and maintenance of first aid kits in the center. A first aid kit is kept in a cupboard in the program room. The preschool has the most current supply list for the kits. CCR&R supplied the center with a weather radio and a flash light has been added to the kit.

Environmental testing and maintenance of necessary detection equipment were reviewed. An annual heating inspection is conducted each fall. A new furnace was installed 2 years ago but an inspection is not present on this unit. An UL approved plug in carbon monoxide detector is in the kitchen. Radon testing is up to date. This testing is required to be done every two years and it is recommended that testing occur during the winter months when the ground is frozen. A test kit is to be placed in every room that serves children except kitchens, laundry areas, and bathrooms. Since the building was constructed after 1960 a lead based paint visual assessment is not required. The preschool is on city water, therefor water analysis is not required.

We discussed general safety policy and procedures. Volunteers should always be under the direct observation of staff. All volunteers and substitutes shall sign a statement indicating whether or not they have one of the following:

a. (1) Conviction of any law in any state or any record of founded child abuse or dependent adult abuse in any state.
(2) A communicable disease or other health concern that could pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of the children.

b. (1) Complete form 595-136 DHS Criminal History Record Check, Form B
(2) Complete Form 470-0643, Request for Child Abuse Information.
(3) Sign a statement indicating the volunteer or substitute has been informed of the volunteer's or substitute's responsibilities as a mandatory reporter.

Any visitors to the Center shall complete the tasks above.

Ratio has been met and maintained on each visit the past 10 years. We discussed ratio for ages 3 and 4. We discussed

volunteers and substitutes and how ratio is effected. No staff at the preschool are under 18 years of age. Ratio changed in 2022 indicating one staff may care for up to ten three year old children. We discussed this.

Fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly per my observation of such.

We reviewed sanitation policies and procedures. The preschool utilizes a mixture of bleach and water on table tops and other surfaces. We discussed that staff should follow bottle directions. Bleach and water is mixed daily. Bottle directions are followed. The preschool should have a weekly/daily cleaning schedule. Cleanliness/sanitation was not observed to be an issue on any visit. A new child sized toilet was installed in the restroom attached to the classroom this year.

Door locks, lights and smoke detectors have been replaced and updated this past year.

Toilet plungers that were in each restroom are placed in containers to avoid spreading transmission of disease.

Children wash their hands upon entering the program room so they wash away any germs they might be bringing in to the preschool. Hands are also washed after they have been outdoors, and before snack time.

Preschool OUTDOOR PLAY AREA:

The children run and play on the church lawn. This space is on the side of the church building with a well kept residential neighborhood on it's outside border. This space is an open grassy area with no obvious safety hazards. Shade is provided by the building and by nearby trees. The area is not fenced, but is not close to the road.. The Child Care Weather Watch should be utilized if weather conditions make outdoor play questionable.

Outdoor play inspections were conducted on a monthly basis.

Preschool TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS:

Parents provide transportation to and from preschool. Public transit services (Southern Iowa Trolley) provides transportation for some children to and from the program. They will ride the Trolley for the three field trips. The center does take walking field trips in the neighborhood. They have field trip authorizations for each child and trolley permission slips for the trolley.

Emergency contacts and first aid kits should be taken on field trips. A staff that is certified in CPR/First Aid should also be present.

People from the community also come for presentations to the students and talk about their professions.

Preschool ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS:

Child files are reviewed annually including required paperwork and documentation. Parents fill out all new paperwork each year and staff review to ensure all information is included. I reviewed emergency contact information, dental and medical information for each child, physicals, (due annually) and immunizations.

Staff files are reviewed. including CPR/First Aid (due every 2 years), Mandatory Reporter training, due every 5 years, professional development due annually. Most required current paperwork and documentation and training certificates were present Staff were current on Universal Precautions training. Fingerprints (due every 4 years) and Iowa Criminal Record checks (due every 2 years) are also reviewed as well as the one time Criminal Conviction Form Statement.

Required policies written in the form of a handbook are present including a limited access policy. An evacuation of immobile child policy is present.

Each fall before preschool starts written emergency policies and procedures should be reviewed. Staff sign and date acknowledgement of such.

The Director has prepared an Emergency Preparedness Plan that meets guidelines. Emergency numbers, poison control and the center address and phone number are posted in the kitchen near the phone. Tornado/Fire Evacuation maps are posted by each door.

Class schedules and curriculum remain high quality.

Other mandatory postings such as no smoking signs, consultant contact information and the center license are posted.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff feel their program has great families and the two of them work well together.

They have a smaller program and this allows them to do more 1:1 things with the children.

The church has also been financially supportive of the preschool.

The building is newer and well kept.

Both ladies have several years of experience/education.

The program has consulted with CCR&R regarding the regulations checklist and compliance with such.

The program participates in I-smile.

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

1. 109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. One staff is also behind on Mandatory Reporter training. The Director agreed to ensure SING checks were updated as well as MR Reporter training.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program Director has been employed with the preschool for several years.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this preschool program remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

DHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. 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. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultants can perform an Injury Prevention Checklist both outside and inside.

DHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant. 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. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org Michelle Greenough is the facility consultant.

It is recommended the program continue to access Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Michelle Greenough and Child Care Nurse Consultant for consultation services. The program should have regular collaboration with service providers to ask for assistance in maintaining licensing regulations throughout the 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.