

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

**Name of Center:** Unity Ridge Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6319

**Street:** 1004 1st Ave S **City:** Denison **Iowa** **Zip** 51442 **County:** Crawford

**Mailing Address:** 1004 1st Ave S, Denison, IA, 51442

**Director's Name:** Cassie Reimers **Phone Number:** 712-393-2002

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** **E-Mail:** cassie.reimers@unityridge.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 08-15-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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:** 08-13-2024

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:** **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** Profit X Non-Profit NA

**Accreditation:** 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

| <b>HOURS:</b> | <u>Year-round</u> | <u>School-Year</u> | <u>Summer Only</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|------------------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|----------|
| General          | 8       | 14      | 44        | 34         | 100      |
| Summer           |         |         |           |            | 0        |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| <b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b> |                                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| X                                  | <b>FULL</b> license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026 |
|                                    | <b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from                   |
|                                    | <b>DENIAL</b> of initial application              |
|                                    | <b>SUSPENSION</b> of license                      |
|                                    | <b>REVOCATION</b> of license                      |

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans

Date: 08-16-2024

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

## II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Zion Lutheran Preschool on 3-11-2024. The preschool is located in Zion Lutheran Church in Denison Iowa. Brenda Trunkhill became the director in August 2020. Brenda has her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Early Childhood. 23 children enrolled. I met with Brenda during my licensing visit. Preschool services are offered to children three years to five years old.

### Observation of room:

The room looks nice and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment, the toys are rotated frequently. Seven children were in attendance on the day of my licensing visit. The children were having fun playing. Brenda had excellent interactions with the children, she was positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The program uses Creative Curriculum and a religious curriculum, the theme was simple machines. Brenda develops the lesson plans/activities. Brenda provides a newsletter with updates and pictures on the Remind app.

### Nutrition:

The children provide the daily snack. A list of nutritious food options is given to the parents.

### Health and safety:

If you have fuel burning appliances i.e. furnace you will need an annual fuel burning inspection/boiler inspection is needed. Schools usually send me a current/annual boiler inspection. You will need to find out if your building has fuel burning appliances.

Monthly fire and tornado were documented.

Radon testing was done in August 2022 and the score was 0.7 pCi/L. Radon testing is required every two years.

### Playground:

The center has a playground that is located in back of the school/church. It is fenced and has some playground equipment. Refer to your Public Playground Safety Handbook for information on surfacing, equipment, fall zones etc.

Monthly playground inspections were completed. A copy of the new playground safety inspection was emailed to Brenda.

### Transportation:

The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

### Administrative records:

Child files were reviewed and were in good order.

Staff files were reviewed and needed current record checks. Corrected - Brenda sent me an email on 3-26-2024 with the current criminal record checks for four staff, and a current national record check for one staff.

## III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Brenda began working at the center in August 2020. She is enthusiastic and proud of the program. Brenda had excellent interactions with the children.

The center will apply for IQ4K.

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

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.

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.

#### **V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license is recommended for 4-1-2024 to 4-1-2026.

8-16-2024 Administrative Change - A visit was made to Unity Ridge Lutheran Preschool on 8-15-2024. I met with the new director Cassie Reimers. The center has made renovations and now has an infant/toddler room - a door was installed for egress compliance, 3 and four year old preschool room, 3 and 4 year old wraparound child care room, and a school age room in the gym. The capacity is increased to 100 children, the hours have changed and Cassie Reimers is the new director. An approved fire inspection was completed on 8-13-2024.

\*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.