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

Name of Center: Grundy Community Preschool **Enrollment:** 83 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 34186

Street: 1001 8th St **City:** Grundy Center Iowa **Zip** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 1001 8th St, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Kim Brower **Phone Number:** 319-825-6257

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rhonda Kruger **E-Mail:** rkruger@spartanpride.net

Date(s) of Visit: 09-30-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-05-2023

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			58		58
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-07-2024

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 Grundy Community Preschool on 09-30-24 where I met with on-site supervisor Rhonda Kruger. The program is partnered with the Grundy Center Child Care center overseen by Kim Brower as the program director and Ronda Kruger as the on-site supervisor. Rhonda is well qualified for the position having not only a teaching degree but also having been working in early childhood care and education for the past 20+ years. The program is located in the former elementary school building and now makes use of three rooms. The program provides preschool programming only, serving children 3 and 4 years of age. There are 3 three lead teachers, Rhonda Kruger, Kristy Droll, and Salina Ross, and each also had 2 assistant teachers present. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during this visit.

The layout and design of the building and classrooms remain the same as in the prior visit. The program makes use of 3 classrooms on the upper level of the building. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to maintenance. Two of the classrooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The room used by Salina is an interior room which has no windows and makes use of artificial lighting. Each classroom has restroom facilities available directly accessible from the classrooms. Each also has additional sinks in the room which can be used for hand washing. The classrooms for Rhonda and Kristy also have smaller spaces located off the main classrooms that can be used for 1:1 programming. An intervening door also allows for secondary emergency egress but the building also had fire suppression sprinklers. The building does have a basement level which is used for a storm shelter. Each classrooms makes use of furniture, shelves, and play structures to define activity centers and a teacher work desk which are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas.

Activity centers include options such as large/small manipulatives, dramatic play, math/science, music/media, art/crafts, puzzles/games, sand/water play, and group learning. Each center had a supply of materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. The program uses the same learning theme for each classroom and the focus was on Fall with a specific activity of making Zucchini bread on the day of my visit. Good interactions were observed with the teachers presenting the planned curriculum or otherwise attending to the children's needs. This included a teacher working with the children in a teacher lead small group activity of measuring out the ingredients for the Zucchini bread, and the other teachers playing with the children in center play, and assisting with toileting. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers using positive recognition, redirection, and guided problem solving to encourage appropriate behavior.

Good health and safety policies and practices were generally observed on the day of my visit but there were some issues that the center should review. The teachers did ensure that the children washed their hands as needed and that they did so in an effective manner. This included before they assisted with the cooking activity, and the teachers reminding the children not to lick their hands if they get the batter or ingredients on them. When using chemical cleaners the staff would wait until the children were engaged in a group activity away from the areas being cleaned. It was noted that the chemical cleaners are stored in a cabinet under the sink in each classroom. While not readily accessible it is recommended that the center look at options for safety latches to install that could help to further secure the cleaning agents. There were no children that were taking any prescription medications, but the center did have children in inhalers for use as needed.. Children with diagnosed

allergies did have allergy response plans present in their files. During the visit there were over the counter medications that were present which were identified as belonging to staff. While medications provided for the children were labeled as required and the center does not maintain stock medications they should also label the medications with the name of the employee that they belong to. First aid kits are maintained throughout the center and contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Snacks are provided by parents and the center does maintain a limited supply of snack items to supplement as needed to ensure that nutritional content requirements are met. Good food storage and service practices were observed on the day of my visit. Each classroom had a small refrigerator present and each was secured so as not to be a topple hazard. Thermometers were present in all units to ensure that proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. A list of served items was maintained for each class. The teachers and children did wash their hands before handling food and food service items. Supervision was provided at the table while the children were eating.

The center has several playground spaces available but the preschool program makes use of one fenced playground space that has a climbing structure, swings, sandboxes, and other equipment for the children to play with. Fall surfacing includes an area of stabilized rubber mulch beneath the climbing structure, and loose rubber mulch in other areas. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the developmental levels of the children. Shade is provided by the play structures, and large trees that are located in an attached grassy area.

A review of administrative records found that all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A review of staff files found all required information and documentation to be present in each file for all staff. A random selection of 20% of child files were reviewed for each classroom and all reviewed filed contained all required contact information. All required inspection certificates and logs were available and current

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a program where there is a high level of stability with most of the teachers having been with the program for a number of years. This has allowed the center to have a high degree of continuity with teachers that are very familiar with the lesson plans and working together.

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

None Cited

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.