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

Name of Center: Under the Son Childcare **Enrollment:** 40 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51908

Street: 510 Date ST **City:** Schleswig Iowa **Zip** 51461 **County:** Crawford

Mailing Address: PO Box 375, Schleswig, IA, 51461

Director's Name: Stacy Jepsen **Phone Number:** 712-676-3883

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

Date(s) of Visit: 03-12-2025

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: 07-17-2024

Comments : Date of compliance 8-1-2024.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	18	10	11	9	48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 04-18-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Under The Son Childcare on 3-12-2025. This is a new center in Schleswig Iowa. The center was funded by United Church of Christ and other entities. The center provides child care to infant age to school age children Monday - Friday 5:00 am to 6:00 pm. Stacy Jepsen is the director, she has many years of experience working in child care. I met with Stacy during my licensing visit. There are 40 children enrolled.

Observation of rooms:
The center looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment and toys in each program room, the toys are rotated on a frequent basis. There are three program rooms - Infant room, Toddler room and Preschool/School age room. The school age room has been moved up front, it was previously the toddler room. Rooms were in ratio.
The daily sheets looked good. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
A child in the infant room was sleeping in a swaddling blanket, please don't use swaddling blankets in child care are they are a safe sleep hazard. You can use sleep sacks with the arms free for movement.
Please remove boppy pillows as they aren't recommended for child care and are intended to assist nursing mothers.
A staff was stepping over a gate in a program room. This is a health and safety hazard as the staff could fall and hurt them self or fall and hurt a child. Don't allow staff/parents to step over gates.
Hand washing procedures weren't followed. Please review hand washing procedures with all staff - children's hands must be washed before meal times and after using the restroom and diaper changing.
The infant room and the toddler room had a lot of clutter, please assist staff with getting more organized, remove clutter from counter tops etc., develop a storage area for staff.
The toddler room has a new Teaching Toddlers curriculum, please post a daily schedule. The school age room needs lesson plans/activities.
The center uses the Brightwheel child care app.
Stacy works in ratio as needed.

Nutrition:
The kitchen looks great. Meals are prepared onsite, the center employs a cook. Menus were posted. Proper food storage was observed. Make sure you have thermometers in refrigerators and freezers - a thermometer was needed.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills will be practiced and documented.
Radon testing was completed in January 2024, three tests were 1.9 pCi/L. Please refer to your handbook for radon information and the frequency of testing required for your center.
Purell Surface is used for sanitizing and disinfecting. The center was following the three bottle procedure for both sanitizing and disinfecting; 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. EPA approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting.

Playground:
There is a fenced playground area with a shade canopy, a stage and bench will be added
Monthly playground safety inspections were completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. The school bus provides some transportation.

Administrative records:
Child files were read and were in good order.
Staff files were read - three staff need current criminal record checks, please complete the criminal record checks immediately and refer to your record check directions. Make sure all staff files have a signed employee statement. A staff person will be participating TEACH program/CDA.
Stacy maintains daily contact with staff, she also sends staff messages in the Brightwheel app, she is always looking for new staff to hire. The center has an active board.
Monthly newsletters are provided to the families.
Stacy will look at applying for IQ4K in the future.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Stacy is very enthusiastic and proud of the center.
The center has an active board and community supports.
Staff had wonderful interactions with the children. Stacy has worked with Child Care Resource and Referral worker Bailey Hill.
The center has received grants for equipment and supplies, they received sun shades with a grant.

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.
Staff files were read - three staff need current criminal record checks, please complete the criminal record checks immediately and refer to your record check directions.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
A child in the infant room was sleeping in a swaddling blanket, please don't use swaddling blankets in child care are they are a safe sleep hazard. You can use sleep sacks with the arms free for movement.
Please remove boppy pillows as they aren't recommended for child care and are intended to assist nursing mothers.
A staff was stepping over a gate in a program room. This is a health and safety hazard as the staff could fall and hurt them self or fall and hurt a child. Don't allow staff/parents to step over gates.
Hand washing procedures weren't followed. Please review hand washing procedures with all staff - children's hands must be washed before meal times and after using the restroom and diaper changing.
The infant room and the toddler room had a lot of clutter, please assist staff with getting more organized, remove clutter from counter tops etc., develop a storage area for staff.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
Please post a daily schedule in the toddler room. The school age room needs lesson plans/activities.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 8-1-2024 to 8-1-2026.
Off year licensing visit 3-12-2025.

A referral has been made to your child care nurse consultant for consultation and training on safe sleep - no swaddling blankets, no boppy pillows, children's hand washing before meals and after diaper changing.

*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.