Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Covenant Kids Preschool

Provider No.: 30208

Address: 604 Third St SW, Orange City, IA, 51041

County: Sioux

Director's Name: Anna Zeutenhorst

On-Site Supervisor: Melissa Brummel

Phone Number: 7127372274

E-Mail: azeutenhorst@occhristian.pvt.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 10/07/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/09/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Wednesday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Friday		8:15 AM to 3:15 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			20	20	40
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/07/26, I completed an unannounced visit to Covenant Kids Preschool and Cub Care Center. I was welcomed by Anna Zeutenhorst, the program's director. Anna holds a degree in elementary education and brings several years of hands-on experience working with young children. Covenant Kids Preschool is located within a classroom at Orange City Christian School, creating a calm, school-based environment for the children it serves.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The preschool operates Monday through Thursday, offering both a morning session from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and an afternoon session from 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The program also provides Cub Care, which offers extended care immediately following morning preschool from 11:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. On Fridays, while preschool classes do not meet, Cub Care is available for families from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Both the preschool and Cub Care follow the school-year calendar. The program serves children ages 4 to 5, with 30 children enrolled and 14 children present during the preschool session at the time of my visit. The center uses The Creative Curriculum, a research-based early childhood program built around hands-on exploration and project-based learning. This curriculum encourages children to investigate the world around them, problem-solve, build social connections, and gain foundational academic skills through purposeful play. In addition, the program integrates a Bible Curriculum, providing developmentally appropriate faith-based lessons that help children learn about kindness, respect, and gratitude while supporting character development. Together, these curriculums offer a balanced approach that nurtures both academic readiness and a strong moral foundation. The classroom was thoughtfully arranged into a variety of learning centers, each designed to spark curiosity and promote independence. Children had access to materials for literacy, math, art, dramatic play, and hands-on exploration. Visual supports—including

the alphabet, sight words, numbers, and children's artwork—created a warm, engaging environment that celebrates learning.

The refrigerator was clean and maintained at the appropriate temperature, and no additional food items were stored in the room. Parents supply nutritious daily snacks, and the program follows CACFP guidelines to help families make healthy choices. For Cub Care and Friday Care, parents also provide snacks, while lunch is supplied by the school. Tables were sanitized before meals, and both staff and children consistently followed proper handwashing procedures.

Outdoors, the children have access to a large school playground with slides, a sand area, and climbing equipment. Wood chips provide appropriate fall surfacing, and shade is available. Playground inspections are completed monthly, and the school maintains the equipment. Safety practices were strong throughout the program: the first aid kit was complete and monitored by the school nurse; fire and tornado drills were documented each month; radon results were within normal limits; and heating inspections were up to date. The center uses school buses for field trips and has a functioning carbon monoxide detector.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center is currently certified at IQ4K Level 1, which reflects that the program has successfully met all foundational quality requirements established by Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Level 1 signifies that the center is committed to providing safe, reliable, developmentally appropriate care and has completed all the necessary steps to participate in the IQ4K system. It shows that the program has the essential policies, health and safety practices, and foundational early childhood standards in place, forming a strong base on which to continue building quality. Being at Level 1 also highlights the center's willingness to grow and engage in ongoing improvement. It marks the beginning of their quality journey and demonstrates readiness to strengthen practices, enhance staff development, and deepen family partnerships as they move toward higher levels of quality over time.

The center maintains a strong, positive relationship with families because communication is truly valued and built into the program's daily routines. Staff make an effort to connect with parents at drop-off and pick-up, sharing small observations, celebrations, or concerns in a way that helps families feel informed and included. Parent–teacher conferences are held regularly, giving families dedicated time to talk about their child's progress, strengths, and any goals they may have. These conversations help strengthen trust and create a sense of partnership, ensuring that both the center and families are working together to support each child's growth and well-being.

I observed good engagement between the teachers and the children throughout the activity. Teachers interacted at the children's level, showing genuine interest and connection. The children were clearly excited about the activity, which centered around a story featuring a fire department dog, and their enthusiasm added to the positive learning atmosphere.

Center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress.

Center is working on getting on IQ4K program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with Anna regarding her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

During our discussion, the director shared how she oversees behavior management within the program, with a particular focus on helping staff understand expectations, manage frustrations, and stay supported in their roles. She explained that the team includes two staff members who work two days a week, which provides helpful flexibility and support during the week. Because the staff work closely together and have strong rapport, they feel comfortable communicating openly when they are feeling frustrated or when a situation becomes challenging. This allows them to step in for one another easily, creating a collaborative environment where no one feels alone in managing behaviors. The director emphasized that this teamwork not only reduces stress for staff but also helps ensure that children receive calm, consistent guidance throughout the day.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/07/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.