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

Name of Center: Nisse Preschool and Kids Place **Enrollment:** 39 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18229

Street: 311 College Dr **City:** Decorah Iowa **Zip** 52101 **County:** Winneshiek

Mailing Address: 311 College Dr, Decorah, IA, 52101

Director's Name: Karen Frick **Phone Number:** 563-382-4794

On-Site Supervisor(s): Karen Frick **E-Mail:** director@nissepreschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-05-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-10-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-28-2023

Comments : Compliance on 12/13/23

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	0	0	29	0	29
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-22-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/05/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Nisse Preschool and Kids Place in Decorah. I met with Emily Secor, the office administrative person. She is working toward being the director, but she needs a year of experience in a childcare program. Ms. Secor started with the program in August 2023. Karen Frick is the interim director and lead teacher. She started with the program in September 2019. She has a BA and an AA in early childhood and was previously employed by Head Start. Ms. Frick is a NAEYC member. Laurie "Laura" Betts and Janessa "Nessa" Stoen are the assistants in the room. The program also employs four extended care staff members who are Luther College students.

The program is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:45 am until 5:30 pm and serves preschool-aged children. The program partners with the Decorah Community School system to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant. The four-year-old program meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 am until 1:15 pm. The center also provides a three-year-old preschool program. The three-year-old program meets on Thursday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am. Extended childcare is offered at the completion of the preschool programs. There are a total of 39 children enrolled in the childcare center.

The program operates out of one large room. An inspection of the room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with pictures of the children and their families. The room is also decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, puppets, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

Cots are used to nap for the children who stay for extended care.

There are two bathrooms available for the children. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. Children must be potty trained to attend the program.

The four-year-old preschool program uses Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. GOLD assessments are completed on each child, and they follow the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). They also use the Wilson Foundations literacy program, Second Step, Read It Again curriculum and a math curriculum. They also follow the Early Learning Outcomes (ELO) to prepare the children for school. Creative Curriculum is also the primary source for creating lesson plans for the three-year-old program, but other resources are also utilized. Activities are developed around studies. The length of time spent on each study depends on the children's interest level. Nisse Preschool uses the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. The program partners with Keystone AEA to work with children who have identified needs. A newsletter is provided to parents in the four-year-old program each week and to parents in the

three-year-old program each month.

The four-year-old children take field trips, and they use a school bus for transportation and go on walking field trips. The dental office visits the center for presentations and the fire department has also made visits. The three-year-old preschool class takes walking field trips.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program door and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Practice the fire and tornado drills at different times of the day. I reviewed documentation of playground inspections. A radon test was completed in December 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. A radon mitigation system was put in after high radon levels were detected in the past. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the microwave. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/28/23, with compliance on 12/13/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The program provides a morning snack and lunch to the preschool children and an afternoon snack is provided to the children in extended care. Parents can purchase lunch from the Winneshiek Medical Center or parents can provide a lunch from home for the children. The program can supplement the meals from home if necessary. A volunteer picks up the lunches and delivers them to the childcare center. Lunch is delivered individually packaged. The center provides milk. Snacks are provided by the parents in the morning and by the center in the afternoon. Snacks are documented on a calendar. Disposable products are used. There are sinks available in a storage room to wash dishes using the three-step method when necessary. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. There is a refrigerator on site and thermometers were present. Allergies were posted.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

The playground is a fenced area. Poly Extruded Matting (PEM) provides the cushion surfacing. The PEM Playground Matting has shredded rubber contained in chambers. There is a slide and a bicycle merry-go-round for the children. There is also a sandbox, sensory table, basketball hoop, a playhouse, woodworking, blocks and transportation items. A picnic table is in this area.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information and one file did not have adequate dental emergency contact information. There was one outdated physical. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

I reviewed three staff files. Two files did not have copies of the fingerprint results. Emily Secor is the new administrative person and she does not know where the previous director kept the results. She will have staff members do fingerprints again if she cannot find them. Two staff members did not have documentation of universal precautions training and one staff member did not have documentation of mandatory reporter training. Two staff members did not have physicals.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have fantastic interaction with the children. Ms. Frick is an enthusiastic teacher who has fun activities that are also educational. The teachers were dancing with the children and moved around the classroom space to provide supervision. Ms. Frick provides the program stability and has been with the program for quite a while. Staff members were interacting with the children at their level and they were actively engaged in activities. Staff members offered the children choices. Staff members had great teamwork and a good routine. The children appeared to enjoy themselves at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Secor states they use the Brightwheel app to communicate with families.

Ms. Secor states they are applying for an IQ4K level 2.

Ms. Secor states that communication is important. If necessary, they will provide reading assistance to any family or parent as needed. They will also provide an interpreter and/or translator as needed.
Ms. Secor states their ratio of teachers to students is a benefit.

Ms. Secor states the space of the classroom is beneficial. It provides a lot of room for their units.

Ms. Secor states the program's location in town is great. It allows them to have walking distance to many areas.

Ms. Frick is great as the lead teacher. She has a BA and an AA in early childhood and was previously employed by Head Start. She is also bi-lingual.

They partner with Keystone AEA for services, such as speech therapy and AEA provides the program with great activity resources.

The center partners with the Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteer Program in Decorah. They use senior volunteers to deliver their meals to the center.

The program partners with the Decorah Community School system to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant.

Conferences are provided to parents twice each year.

The program has three teachers which allow the children to have more one-on-one attention.

The program utilizes PBIS in the classroom.

The program has great visual cues in the room for the children, including a daily schedule and pictures to depict the current study.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
Two staff members did not have documentation of universal precautions training and one staff member did not have documentation of mandatory reporter training.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 2
Two files did not have copies of the fingerprint results. Emily Secor is the new administrative person and she does not know where the previous director kept the results. She will have staff members do fingerprints again if she cannot find them.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 2
Two staff members did not have physicals.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 2
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information and one file did not have adequate dental emergency contact information.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Karen Frick as the interim director. Emily Secor is doing the administrative duties and will become the director once she has an experience of childcare and reaches the 100 points.

*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.