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

Name of Center: Westminster Preschool **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27278

Street: 4114 Allison Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 4114 Allison Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50310

Director's Name: Kalee Dykhouse **Phone Number:** 515-274-1534

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** westminsterpreschooldsm@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-03-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-10-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-23-2022

Comments :

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.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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			96		96
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 03-14-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 3/3/23. The director was present throughout the visit.

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

Westminster Preschool has been in operation since 1989. The center currently provides child care and preschool programming to children between the ages of two through five years of age. As of December of 2020, Kalee Dykhouse has been the director. Kalee has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and was a prior On-Site Supervisor as another preschool in the metro area. Kalee meets qualifications to be the Director.

The center offers part time and full day classes. A wrap around classroom offers full day care to children. The four year old classroom is partnered with the public school and preschool is offered for 4 year old children with a morning session of 8:40 - 11:30 am or a PM session of 12:25 pm to 3:15 pm M-Th. The three year old session is from 8:30 am to 11:30 am M-F. The two year old classroom is offered 8:30: am to 11:30 am for a T-Th session. A combined 2-3 year old class is offered M-W from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Warp around, full day care, is offered to all of the children who attend these classes, from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.

In 2019 year round care was offered for children between the age of two through five years of age, providing care to children in the summer. Two classrooms are used during the summer months. The center has received positive feedback from parents and will continue to offer summer care, making this a year round program.

The center has a Preschool Board of Directors and is a ministry of the church.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum and Project based learning.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has many long term staff who work well together. Several staff have degrees, three with a Bachelor's degree, one with an associates degree and one with a para education degree. There are staff who have worked at this center from five to eleven years; out of the ten staff at the center, one has been with the center for 11 years, one for 7 years, one for 6 years and one for five years. A new staff member speaks Spanish fluently and this has been a benefit to the center.

The center offers varying times for classes and also offers full day care. The center recently added a summer component and will now offer year round programming for families.

The center has good communication with the parents and has an App, Bloomz, that they use with the parents for better communication.

The center has a strong partnership with the church where they are housed.

The center participates in community activities and exposes the children to different cultures and religions. This has looked different during the pandemic.

The center offers a large cultural event in the fall for families at the church; this is a free event for all families at the center. This did not take place during the pandemic.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center receives positive feedback from families.

The classrooms are large with good room arrangement and well equipped centers, as well as providing natural lighting with several windows.

The teachers are adaptable and have shown this even more during the pandemic.

The teachers are welcoming and work well with the families.

There is strong communication between staff and management, as well as between staff and parents. The staff show strong teamwork.

The program will be putting in new playground tiles on the outdoor playground area.

The program conducted field trips with the children over the summer.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is required every two years. The center completed radon testing in January of 2022 and all rooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

Discussion took place regarding some paint starting to chip off on the floor boards in the 2-3 year old classroom, this was in areas that were behind shelving units that were moved recently. The director will talk to maintenance about getting the floor boards re-painted.

The boiler was replaced in 2022.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.