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

Name of Center: Sonshine Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16467

Street: 700 E Olive ST **City:** Marshalltown Iowa **Zip** 50158 **County:** Marshall

Mailing Address: 700 E Olive ST, Marshalltown, IA, 50158

Director's Name: Karalee Johnson **Phone Number:** 641-753-3082

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** karalee@journeymtown.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-06-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-22-2022

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

Date Inspected: 08-18-2022

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			70		70
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-15-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 11-3-23 and the director was present for the entirety of the visit.

Sonshine Preschool was started in 1991 and continues to meet in the church, which is now called Journey. The preschool is affiliated with the church, and they work closely together. Karalee Johnson became the director in August of 2022. Karalee has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Counseling and a Master's degree in K-12 teaching with an emphasis on special education. Karalee meets qualifications to be the director. The program offers preschool Monday-Thursday 8:45 AM to 11:45 AM, during the school year (Sept through May) for ages three to five years.

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.

Room observations/activities: The preschool in now using mainly 2 classrooms, however can use two additional preschool classrooms if needed. These classrooms are all located in the same hallway/area of the church. The program can also use the large gym for indoor large motor play. The preschool uses Creative Curriculum, using the Blooms Application to communicate with parents. There is also a teacher created religious component. Each room is well stocked with a variety of centers/activities. Staff maintained structure of the rooms and were responsive to the children while leading a group activity.

Nutrition Practices: Snack is provided. There is access to a kitchen in the church. Snacks are in-line with CACFP guidelines and served family-style in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: Medication is kept secured in the Director's office. Handwashing posters were hung. Classrooms have a first aid kit each. The classrooms had been recently painted and discussion took place to make sure the fire/tornado emergency plans were re-hung and the director indicated she would do this immediately. Fire and Tornado drills were documented to have been completed monthly. Radon testing was completed 3/2022 and all tested rooms were below 4.0 cutoff level for safety. The heating and cooling system is maintained by the church. There are carbon monoxide detectors in each classroom. This center was nicely organized and very tidy.

Playground: The playground was enclosed by chain link, located on the same property but to the south of the center. There are play structures that were in good repair; there was shade provided by the play structures and surfacing is wood chips. Playground checks were documented completed monthly.

Transportation: not provided NA

Administrative Review: Postings for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were all present and up-to-date. Three child files were reviewed; two found to be missing

emergency contact information for doctor; and one missing information for emergency dentist. Two employee files were reviewed and found to have all the required information. This center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a well established program in the community.

The teachers are experienced and caring people. The preschool is using an App called Blooms for the parents to access during the day and the preschool was able to purchase and I pad for each classroom. This assists with communication with parents.

The Director and the teachers are invested in their program; they are caring and nurturing toward the children and work well together.

The Director is invested in the program and very organized.

The preschool receives support from the church and is a ministry of the church.

The preschool has a secure entrance.

The preschool is able to offer scholarships for enrollment through IRVECA, which amounts to several children being the recipients of scholarships.

The program has strong enrollment and focuses on being a smaller, yet quality preschool.

The program holds monthly staff meetings.

The classrooms have strong structure and lesson plans, that also incorporate play.

There is longevity of staff, with staff teaching at this preschool for many years.

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

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

Files must contain emergency name and contact information for doctor, dentist and hospital.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This program was observed to be very clean and had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. The staff and director were observed to be nurturing and to maintain structure in the rooms.

*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.