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

Name of Center: Ames Christian School **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18060

Street: 925 S 16th St **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 925 S 16th St, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Amy Carlat **Phone Number:** 515-233-0772

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** office@ameschristianschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-06-2024

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:** 10-01-2024

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

Date Inspected: 11-07-2023

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years, completed by Ames Fire Dept.

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 X 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			57	26	83
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-19-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 11-6-24. Amy Carlat, director was present through the entire visit.

Ames Christian School offers a preschool program and a child care program, as well as before and after school programming for school age children attending Ames Christian School. The preschool program has been in existence since at least 1999, and the child care program started in 2009. The school principal is Jill Wilson. Amy Carlat is the preschool and before and after school director since 2019. Amy meets qualifications for this role. Amy has a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

The hours for the child care program are 7:00 am-5:30 pm. They also offer before and after school care to their elementary age students, starting and ending with these same hours as well. This is a school year only program.

Preschool sessions are either from 8:30-11:15 am, or noon-3:00 pm. The three year old children meet on T/Th mornings, or M/W mornings. The four year old children can either attend a three day session, a four day session or all five days. Children can attend all day programming with the warp around child care offered, so that children can attend their preschool session and then receive extended care at the school for the remainder at the day, both before and after the session.

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: Two adjoining rooms are used, for both preschool and at times, the extended child care. Both have a capacity for 24 children. Each room has a sink in the program area, and each room has a single stall bathroom with a sink in it. The cafeteria/multipurpose room is still used for before and after school programming and has a capacity for 26 children. The before and after school children also use the two preschool rooms at times, as well as the small library room.

The preschool uses components of the Creative Curriculum and teachers write their own lesson plans and themes. There is a religious component to the curriculum as well. The program is not affiliated with a specific church in the community, however families have to be Christian to attend. The classrooms are well-stocked with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys/activities. The teachers maintained a calm structure in the rooms. The staff were consistently observed to be engaged with the children on their level and to provide nurturing responses. There were handwashing signs and staff modeling proper handwashing technique.

Nutrition practices: AM/PM snack and lunch are provided. Lunches are provided to Ames Christian Preschool and School by Ames Community School. Lunch and snacks are served in the pre-school classrooms family-style by staff. The menus rotate per the school district and are following CACFP guidelines. The center does have cold storage and some dry storage for snack items which was clean and well organized.

Health and Safety: Any medication is stored securely in the school office. Emergency medications would be stored securely

and readily accessible. All medications were up-to-date. Handwashing signs are posted. First aide kits are in each classroom and there is an AED easily accessible. Tornado/Fire emergency plans are posted throughout the school and in the classrooms. Monthly checks are documented to have been completed monthly. Radon was sent for results 10/24 and the director will forward those results once received. Heating and Cooling is professionally inspected as arranged by the school. There is a carbon monoxide detector in the 3 year old classroom. This center and the school are very clean and nicely organized.

Playground: This playground is enclosed with wrought iron fencing and is separated by ages. There is a smaller play structure available for younger children. There is some small shade provided by the structure. Surfacing is cement; safety surfacing is rubber chips. Playground checks were documented to have been done monthly as required. The playground was in good condition.

Transportation: No transportation is provided.

Administrative Review: Information regarding Mandatory reporter, Handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and no-smoking signs are posted. Seven Child files were reviewed with one child needing an updated physical; Four staff files were reviewed, with one employee needing a repeat SING (Iowa background check). This center has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Parents have appreciated the addition of the child care program so they can drop off their preschool age and elementary age children in the mornings, and pick them up at the end of their work day. This process was observed to work well.

The program has good communication with parents and there are conferences offered twice a year for the preschool children and families.

The staff work well together and staff morale is high. The director is supportive to staff and students.

The program has strong support from the school Principal and from the school. There is strong leadership for the program.

The center has a secure entrance.

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.
*one staff file was in need of a repeat Iowa Background check (SING)

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was pending results and the director will provide results when received.

A 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.