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

Name of Center: Share and Care Preschool **Enrollment:** 26 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25087

Street: 4210 Johnson Ave NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52405 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 4210 Johnson Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52405

Director's Name: Sarah Hoffman **Phone Number:** 319-396-9148

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sarah Hoffman **E-Mail:** sarahhoffman@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-05-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-01-2024

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			32		32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 11-25-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Share and Care Preschool is located inside Concordia Lutheran Church. This preschool program has been in operation since 1980. Share and Care Preschool provides non-denominational Christian preschool programming for children age 3 to 5-years-old. The 4-year-old preschool program is part of the statewide voluntary preschool program though a collaboration with the Cedar Rapids Public School District. Current enrollment is 26.

Share and Care Preschool's combined director/on-site supervisor and lead 4-year-old preschool teacher is Sarah Hoffman. Ms. Hoffman has been the director of Share and Care Preschool since 2011. Ms. Hoffman has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in in early childhood education. She has over 20 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/5/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Share and Care Preschool is a well established program offering a variety of preschool services to help meet the educational needs of families and children. The program is located in a residential neighborhood in a predominantly urban community.

Share and Care Preschool has been in operation since 1980 and is currently celebrating their 44th year of continuing to provide a preschool choice within the community. Congratulations!

Share and Care Preschool has a history of participating in quality initiatives.

Share and Care Preschool has the following website for families and persons in the community learn more about their programs: http://shareandcarepreschool.com/#activities_section.

Share and Care Preschool provides "...a safe and loving early childhood environment that strives to develop the whole child...each little one was created special by a loving God and we aim to showcase each individual learner throughout a variety of hands-on and play-based educational experiences."

Staff are professional - organized, educated, and experienced. Ms. Hoffman is celebrating her 12th year as director of this program. Congratulations! Ms. Hoffman is organized, and in turn, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Ms. Hoffman has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items to be completed as required and maintained in a confidential manner. Ms. Hoffman has goals for the program and herself including redoing and reorganizing the administrative system as well as creating a promotional video celebrating Share and Care Preschool.

Share and Care Preschool continues to retain seasoned employees! Staff are celebrating 29 years, 13 years, and 11 years with the program. With the director, this makes over 75 years of combined experience! The staff longevity and professionalism is impressive! The staff's passion for early childhood is clearly evidenced throughout the curriculum and

classrooms. Staff are aware of licensing rules as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Hoffman expressed happiness and appreciation for her team who work well together, possess a high level of ingenuity, and embrace the early childhood profession.

Share and Care Preschool is a ministry of Concordia Lutheran Church and governed by it's Board of Education. Church administration, church custodial staff, and the board help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The property is spacious, sanitary, and well-maintained. The space is ADA accessible and an AED machine is on-site.

The outdoor learning play environment was newly established in 2020 and is easily accessible from the classrooms. Outdoor seating (e.g. picnic tables, shade umbrellas) and stage area enhance outdoor learning. Foliage, grasses, and gardens continue to expand. Families continue to adopt the gardens throughout the summer which then allows the program to experience preschool-garden-grown fresh snacks which have included tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins and watermelon when preschool commences each fall. Share and Care Preschool continues to be a participant of the Farm to Early Core and Education. Through their continued participation the preschool has been able to obtain cabinets in which to hold food items, increase gardening materials, obtain an indoor greenhouse, establish outdoor gardens, and offer many unique snack food items. Ms. Hoffman talked about her appreciation for the program and how they continue to be able to offer fresh food items several times a month.

Share and Care Preschool has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The preschool has successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Share and Care Preschool continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program communication center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, has an established social media page for families, and supports family programming activities.

Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. It was noted - a bird feeder at child height is located just outside a lower classroom window/secondary exit. On the day of the monitoring visit, a variety of birds were seen coming and going from the feeder for a snack. Children were observed to be greatly enjoying this close-up bird watching experience! Curriculum is Teaching Strategies Gold with teacher-inspired ideas. Extremely clever teacher created center play experiences were observed to be organized and rotated out (e.g. Shop Smart, Dino Dig, Coffee Shop, Pancake House, Bear Cave, tea party). Share and Care Preschool has a deep history of offering a variety of program/family events throughout each school-year including preschool-family conferences, an open house, preschool moving on celebration, guest speaker events (e.g. storyteller, musician Mr. Andy), seasonal programming, and virtual experiences in areas of study.

Share and Care Preschool continues to successfully partner with the Cedar Rapids Community School District to provide a 4-year-old statewide voluntary preschool program. The preschool has a history of offering internships to students enrolled in surrounding educational programs who are interested in field of early childhood education.

Share and Care Preschool collaborates well with community agencies including local businesses, various school districts, local higher education entities, and health professionals.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Area of preschool study included "Iowa Wildlife". Engaging, impressive classroom discussions incorporating social skills (e.g. lesson on social graces, shared job duties), The Pledge of Allegiance, phonics work (e.g. storybook reading "Move Over Deer"), and cognitive development (e.g. finger plays, letter H) were observed! The day's events were also discussed which included the national election with encouragement to all children that "...maybe one day one of you will be president..." Activities also included warm greeting/arrival for the day, free choice play (e.g. Shop Smart, imaginative home living play, bird watching, sensory stew play, block building, book reading) and individual student-teacher work (e.g. sequencing how-to-wash-a-dog). Children had access to an array of materials and activities that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack routines) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Ms. Hoffman and staff need to be commended for their ability to sneakily incorporate math/number recognition and literacy opportunities in a fun way into preschool routines! Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Staff communicated well with children verbally, with picture cues and through modeling. Unique "rising star" celebrating and supporting individual learning was observed! Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The annual fuel inspection is scheduled. Please forward inspection report upon receipt.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.