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

Name of Center: Strong Roots Christian School **Enrollment:** 114 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52586

Street: 2205 W 2nd Ave **City:** Indianola Iowa **Zip** 50125 **County:** Warren

Mailing Address: 2205 W 2nd Ave, Indianola, IA, 50125

Director's Name: Gretchen Kaldenberg **Phone Number:** 515-962-5038

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** getrooted@strongrootschristian.org
Mrsweitzel@strongrootschristian.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-11-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-23-2024

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

Date Inspected: 07-11-2024

Comments : 12/5/24 - date of compliance

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			42	34	76
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 12-19-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Strong Roots Christian School has been in operation since August 2022. The school is located in a single standing building. The school provides preschool as well as before and after school child care, which became licensed with HHS in August 2024. These programs are owned and operated under the church's governing board. The center uses a two classrooms and the lunch room for programming. The capacity for the preschool rooms are eighteen and twenty four. The capacity for the lunch room is thirty four. The school has a secured entrance. This preschool is for children ages two through five years. Gretchen Kaldenberg is the director. Gretchen is a teacher at the preschool.

An unannounced visit was completed today. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the school's entrance. Schedules are posted in preschool classrooms. Lesson plans are available for viewing. Each classroom has age appropriate learning supplies, toys and furnishings.

Erin Shearer, the school's acting administrator, assisted with today's visit.
There were thirteen children in Preschool 1. Two teachers work in this room. These children are four and five years old.
There were eighteen children in Preschool 2. Two teachers work in this classroom. These children are ages two through four.
The child care program wasn't in operation at the time of the visit.
Children were observed in their classrooms and in the lunch room, which is the main room used for child care. Children were observed during preschool programming, educational instruction time and during lunch time.

The school and preschool has parents provide snacks and children also bring their own lunches. The preschool provides milk. The center provides parents with a list of CACFP lunch requirements and snack requirements. The school offers additional food items when needed.

The school has an outdoor playground. There is fencing around the playground. Wood mulch is used for surfacing material. The center has completed monthly playground checks. There are a few climbing structures in place. There was a swing structure on the playground that was in place, that hadn't been on the playground during the August visit. This swing set was donated. The swing was bowing in the middle when kids were using it. This swing was viewed as not safe and recommended to be removed immediately. There was other donated playground equipment outside the playground. This worker recommended the center ensure this equipment was safe and appropriate for industrial play before adding it to the center's playground.

The center does not provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Erin Shearer, the school's acting administrator, along with the school staff worked

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

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age.
The center was out of ratio in Preschool 2 for majority of this school semester. There were two staff with eighteen children. There were six children who were two years of age, so there should have been a third teacher in that classroom to be in compliance with ratio requirements.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
There was a swing structure donated to the center on the playground. The swing was bowing significantly when kids were using the structure the day of the licensing visit.
This swing structure isn't safe and needs to be removed.
Erin stated that staff will remove the structure today.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room’s arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.
The center has been using mats that are thin, not 3 to 4 inches which is the recommended thickness for cots used for napping.
The center doesn't have sheets for the mats.
The center is purchasing new mats and sheets.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license.

This worker recommended that the school doing thorough checks of all playground furnishings and equipment prior to the school using the equipment.
The school has continued to accept donated playground equipment and it is very important that playground equipment is in good, stable condition.

*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.