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

Name of Center: South Winneshiek Early Childhood Program **Enrollment:** 57 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18232

Street: 208 E Brooks ST **City:** Ossian Iowa **Zip** 52161 **County:** Winneshiek

Mailing Address: PO Box 298, Ossian, IA, 52161

Director's Name: Donna Blong **Phone Number:** 563-532-9365

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lisa Nelson **E-Mail:** dblong@swinn.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 01-11-2023

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:** 12-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-25-2023

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.) 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	0	0	88	0	88
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-26-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/11/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to South Winneshiek Early Childhood in Ossian. I met with Donna Blong is the lead teacher in the three-year-old room and director. She has been with the program since August 1997 and has her paraeducator certificate, a diploma in early childhood and her CDA. Lisa Nelson is an assistant in Ms. Blong's room and the on-site supervisor. She has an AA in early childhood and an AA in education and her paraeducator certificate. She has previous experience working in childcare. She has been with the program since August 2015. Miranda Rigel is also an assistant in the early childhood room. She has been at the school for seven years. Ms. Rigel has her paraeducator certificate.

Gretchen Wenthold is the lead teacher for the two voluntary four-year-old preschool rooms that operate under the grant. Ms. Wenthold has a BA in early childhood education. Ashley Izer is a teacher in Jumpstart 1 and 2; Mary Lofte is an assistant in the Jumpstart 2 room and Amanda Uhlenhake is an assistant in the Jumpstart 1 room. Ms. Izer, Ms. Lofte and Ms. Uhlenhake all have their paraeducator certificates.

The program is in South Winneshiek Elementary. Visitors must sign in at the office. The program operates from 7:40 am until 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday. The program serves children who are three through five-years-old. The program has a Quality Rating System level of 4 that expires on 06/30/23. There are currently 57 children enrolled.

The program operates out of three classrooms. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, Ipads, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

There are two bathrooms located off the early childhood classroom and two bathrooms in a space between the two Jumpstart classrooms. This is also the area where the children's cubbies are located. Each bathroom has one sink and one toilet. There is also a sink located in each of the classrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. There is a Koala Kare changing table attached to the wall in one of the bathrooms and diaper changing procedures were posted.

Cots are used to nap in the early childhood classroom and mats are used to nap in the two Jumpstart classrooms.

The early childhood room uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Ms. Blong primarily uses Creative Curriculum, and she completes the GOLD assessments. She also uses Jolly Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness tools. The Jumpstart classrooms use Creative Curriculum and GOLD assessments are

completed on all the children. She uses Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and other phonemic tools. Activities are planned around studies. The length of the study depends on the topic and the children's interest level. All the rooms use the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classrooms. The program partners with Keystone AEA to work with identified children. The children also have use of the school library, gym, music teacher and guidance counselor. A projector is in each room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classrooms. Post the emergency numbers near the phone in the second early childhood classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted for each room and lesson plans were available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in November 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector is located near the doors in all four rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/25/23.

The program participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines are followed. The children receive breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Breakfast and lunch are purchased through the school or children can bring their own lunch. The children eat breakfast in the cafeteria. The children eat lunch and snack in the classroom. The meals are delivered to the rooms and staff members serve the children. The four-year-old children will begin eating lunch in the cafeteria in February to help transition them to kindergarten next year. Dishes are returned to the cafeteria to be washed. The afternoon snack is provided by parents. The children must buy milk tickets. Disposable products are used for snack. Snacks are recorded on a calendar. Menus are posted in the rooms. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

Bleach and water are used to sanitize the food tables in the rooms. The bleach and water bottles were clearly labeled.

There is a first aid kit in each classroom. Please remove any medicated creams from the kits. They cannot be used on children without a signed parental medication authorization form. We recommend cleaning the injury with soap and water and putting a band-aid on it.

There is a fenced in playground for the children and rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment as well as other activities for the children to play on. The children also use the large grassy space for the children. The day of my visit they were playing on a large pile of snow on the grassy area.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside each classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve children files. There were two invalid immunization certificates because they were not on the mandated Department of Health certificate.

I reviewed four staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. Staff members were sitting with the children to work one on one with them and to assist them with crafts. They were showing the children how to use their scissors. They offered the children choices. They encouraged them to try new things and use their imaginations. Staff members moved around the rooms to interact with all the children. They offered to read with the children. Staff members talked to the children about being kins and sharing. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has a Quality Rating System level of 4 that expires 06/30/23.

A second classroom was added to accommodate Ms. Blong's large class. There are three staff members and children can be divided into two groups for activities.

Ms. Blong states the three staff members in her room have a great working relationship. They make sure they are all included in making classroom decisions. One can easily pick up where another leaves off. They know the schedule and

they have great teamwork. They are consistent and the children know what to expect. Staff members are committed to their students and want them to have a positive start to their education.

The Jumpstart 1 and 2 rooms are both part of the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant. These two rooms use the Seesaw app to communicate with families. All the rooms send parents emails as needed, prepare weekly newsletters and monthly activity calendars. Staff members talk with parents at the end of the school day. Parents are notified of any changes.

In the Jumpstart rooms the teachers work together and plan as a team. They have open communication with one another. Their schedule is consistent and meets all the required areas through the day.

Both the Early Childhood program and Jumpstart rooms shared several success stories involving their students.

Ms. Blong states there is good communication between all the rooms and they have good communication with the families they serve.

The program offers parent/teacher conferences in November and February. Ms. Blong and Ms. Wenthold completes Gold Assessments on the children.

The teachers have implemented Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) training techniques in their classroom. This is evident in how they work with the children.

The children can ride the school bus to and from preschool if they reside on the bus route.

Ms. Blong states the staff members are consistent and the children know what to expect from them. They are committed to students and want them to have a positive start to their education.

Keystone AEA conducts preventive screenings of the children's speech and language development and test the children's hearing. The school nurse checks the children's vision.

The children have use of the school library, gym, and the music teacher and guidance counselor.

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

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 2
There were two invalid immunization certificates because they were not on the mandated Department of Health certificate.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.