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

Name of Center: Small Wonders Preschool **Enrollment:** 33 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18056

Street: 1500 Gateway Hills Park Dr **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 1500 Gateway Hills Park Dr, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Karla Drapal **Phone Number:** 515-239-5366

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shireen Azizi **E-Mail:** kdrapal@city.ames.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 04-12-2019

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-01-2019

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

Date Inspected: 04-12-2018

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			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2019 to 05-01-2021
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 09-29-2020

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This administrative change report is to reflect that due to Covid, this center closed temporarily in March of 2020 and will not re-open this year, as such, a visit was not available in 2020. The program has plans to re-open the first part of January of 2021. The information below is from the previous licensing visit.

A full licensing visit was conducted on 4/12/19. The Director and On-Site Supervisor were present throughout the visit.

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.

This preschool program is offered through the Ames Parks and Recreation Department. They use the large community room in the administrative building. Preschool is offered Monday- Friday from 9-11:30 and is for children ages three to five; there is a M-W-F session and a Tuesday-Thursday session. There is no longer an afternoon session. Parents can choose the two day program or the three day program. The option is also there for children to attend all five days, and this is what the majority of families choose to do.

Karla Drapal has been the director since 2011, and her assistant Shireen has been with this program since 2005. Karla has her degrees in Elementary Ed, Special Ed, and Early Childhood. She also has over twenty years experience working in preschool programs.

During the visit the children were observed to engage in free play as well as structured learning.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Karla and Shireen work very well together. They feel lucky to have such wonderful children and parents using their program.

Since Karla became director, there has been a waiting list for their morning program.

Children who attend this preschool program are sent to kindergarten prepared with the skills needed to succeed.

The preschool communicates well with the parents and provides a family atmosphere.

The preschool receives positive feedback from the parents and from the schools. The preschool provides a nurturing, structured environment.

The preschool was able to hire a part time/substitute staff member for this school year; this will be a permanent position.

The program receives strong support from the city and the Parks and Recreation Department.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The last radon test was completed on 4/8/19 and tested under the 4.0 cutoff.

The annual furnace inspection was completed on 3/21/19.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your consultant at 515-725-2663 or email dhammer1@dhs.state.ia.us so that we may discuss the issue. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report.
*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.

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