

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

Name of Center: Grace Fellowship Community Preschool **Enrollment:** 8 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 31341

Street: 361 N 8th Ave W **City:** Hartley **Iowa** **Zip** 51346 **County:** Obrien

Mailing Address: 361 N 8th Ave W, Hartley, IA, 51346

Director's Name: Sara Dodge **Phone Number:** 712-928-5665

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** msbdd@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-15-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-17-2023

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew

Date: 03-26-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 03-15-24 and spoke with Sara Dodge director of the program. Ms Dodge has a degree in elementary education and ten years experience working with the 3 year old preschool program, 5 years with head start and 2 years with another preschool program. The program operates Tuesday & Fridays 8:30am to 11:30am during the school year for three year olds. The preschool utilizes 2 rooms in the church. One room is for snacks, circle time and large motor activities and the other room has the various centers and tables located throughout the room. A fenced-in playground is located next to the building. This school year the programs school dates are 09-05-23 to 05-10-24. The program follows the HMS school district for weather. If a late start then the program will adjust their hours for the day.

There are 8 children enrolled in the program. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in cleaning toys daily that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. The church helps supplement the center with funding and any toys or equipment that the program may need.

Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, five senses, globe of the world, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, engaging the children in activities. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center does utilize a few volunteer/subs if staff need to be gone.

The program has parents provide snacks for the program which follows the CACFP program. Refrigerator is clean and at appropriate temperature. No other food is stored in the room. Nutritious snacks are brought by parents each day. CACFP guidelines are followed.

Center does not administer medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by the children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test has been completed, however, the results are very high and needs to be retested or a mitigator contacted to get the levels where they should be. Annual heating inspection is completed. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Fenced-in playground adjacent to the center. The playground has climbing equipment, a slide, balance beam and a teeter totter. Pea gravel is around all of the equipment. Shade is available on the playground. Monthly playground inspection needs to be completed.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips

Center does not go on field trips. They do not provide transportation. Activities and learning opportunities come to the center.

Goals of the center are to maybe add another preschool day to offer 3 days a week and to hire an additional staff member.

Strengths of the program is that staff work well as a team. They also have a good relationship with the church, community and parents that they serve. They also are a Christian based preschool program. The program had received a grant from Valora to help with updating the playground, to add additional toys & equipment for the classroom.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff are very involved in the children's activities.

Children's art work is displayed in the center.

Center does two progress reports fall and spring.

Center has daily schedule with pictures of activities so the children can look at the schedule.

Center is well organized.

Center sends home a newsletter each week to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

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

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

Center's radon results exceed 4.ppl. The program needs to retest or contact a mitigator to ensure levels are within normal levels.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The director will email consultant confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected by 04-14-24.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.