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

Name of Center: Small World Preschool **Enrollment:** 26 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22893

Street: 3475 Kimball Ave **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 3475 Kimball Ave, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Erin McGrane **Phone Number:** 319-235-6808

On-Site Supervisor(s): Erin McGrane **E-Mail:** smallworldpreschool.em@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-02-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-10-2024

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	45	0	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 04-04-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/02/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Small World Preschool. I met with Erin McGrane, the director and the lead teacher in the Pre-K class. She has a BA in elementary education and has previously worked as a teacher with Head Start. Ms. McGrane is a NAEYC member. She has been with the program since 2007. Jenny Riordan is the lead teacher in the three and four-year-old classroom. She has been with the program since August 2013 and has a BA in early childhood education and unified special education. Emily Smalley is the assistant teacher in Ms. Riordan's room. Ms. Smalley started in January 2020 and has a BS in nursing. Kellie Nash is the assistant in Ms. McGrane's room. She started in August 2024 and also has a BS degree.

Small World Preschool is in Central Christian Church. The preschool is an educational outreach program of the church. The Pre-K program operates Monday through Thursday from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm. The three and four-year-old program operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. They offer parents an early drop off at 7:45 am. There are currently 26 children enrolled.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, 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, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, woodworking, math, science/discovery, playdough, 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 in the hallway. There is one for the boys and one for the girls. Each bathroom has a toilet and sink, and handwashing procedures were posted. There are other bathrooms located in the church that are accessible to the children if necessary.

The program can use the fellowship hall for gross motor activities when they are not able to go outside. The day of my visit the fellowship hall was set up as a fun obstacle course with several fun stations for the children.

Snacks are furnished by the parents. Snacks are recorded on calendars. The preschool uses disposable products, so dishwashing is not necessary. The children eat in a snack room and in shifts. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Family style is used. Allergies are confidentially posted.

The program is using Clorox Multi-Surface Cleaner to clean the snack tables and Clorox Disinfecting Mist to sanitize the tables. This product has a one minute dwell time.

The preschool curriculum is based on Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) as set for by Creative Curriculum, the

Iowa Early Learning Standards and the National Health and Safety Performance Standards for preschool. Activities are planned around weekly studies. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plan. The children learn through play, and it is critical for learning to be fun, aka: Play with Purpose.

The parents receive a monthly calendar that includes the weekly studies and an overview of what the children will be learning and activities they will participate in. The Pre-K preschool class partners with the Waterloo Community School district to provide the state funded voluntary four-year-old preschool program. Ms. McGrane completes GOLD assessments, Brigance screenings, and IGDI's on each child. The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number are posted in the classrooms and staff members use their cell phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program. A daily schedule was posted, and a lesson plan was available for review in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2023 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway near the double doors across from the fellowship hall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/10/24.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. 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. Community resources are in the entrance. Please update my licensing poster.

There is a fenced in playground for the children. There is a piece of climbing equipment with a slide and other activities. There are teeter totters, digging equipment, a merry-go-cycle and a playhouse. There are stationary toys to play on and picnic tables for the children. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning and there is also a grassy area for the children to play on. Trees provide shade.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. The forms used by the program for enrollment does not have a space to document the phone numbers for the doctor or the dentist. This is required.

I reviewed two staff files. There was one staff member who has been employed since August 2024 and does not have documentation of first aid or CPR.

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

This program has consistently been terrific. Ms. McGrane and Ms. Riordon have been the lead teachers for many years and they have a great routine for the children and great teamwork with one another. They provide a fun learning environment for the children. The day of the visit they were talking about weather and centers were set up to coincide with the theme. They also did fun experiments to show the difference between a strong wind and light wind. In one activity the children used a turkey baster versus a waving piece of paper to move a feather and another activity had children using a hairdryer and fan to move objects. The children had fun with the activities. A staff member sat with children as they decorated a picture of a kite for a craft project. Staff members are enthusiastic and Ms. McGrane was taking pictures of the children enjoying the activities. Staff members provided praise and encouraged the children to use their imaginations.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

They have a smaller program which allows individualization of each child. She states they meet the children where they are and build upon that to teach them.

They keep things new and fresh for the children. They change out center activities weekly which helps the children stay engaged and not get bored. She states in turn that helps with behaviors. They change the centers to coincide with the theme.

The preschool is an educational outreach program of Central Christian Church.

The program is partnering with the Waterloo School District to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

Ms. McGrane states they offer family events such as Donuts with Dads in April and Muffins with Moms in May.

The teachers use several visual cues in the classrooms to assist in educating the children. They are creative in their lessons and use repetition as a teaching method.

The program's hallways are decorated with the children's artwork, which makes if friendly and inviting.

The program conducts parent surveys each year. They have conferences with parents twice each year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
The program has an IQ4K level of 1 and working on renewing for a level 2.
They attended a Literacy training through AEA.
They attended two STEM workshops through the Scale Up Program.
They are implementing more STEM activities throughout the school year.

GOALS:
The program wants to raise their IQ4K level to 3.
Find transportation for field trips and/or bring in more guests.
Take the LETR training.
Find a committee to help with upkeep of the playground.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
There was one staff member who has been employed since August 2024 and does not have documentation of first aid or CPR.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 6
Number not in compliance for dental: 6
Information lacking: Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. The forms used by the program for enrollment does not have a space to document the phone numbers for the doctor or the dentist. This is required.

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.