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

Name of Center: Joyful Sparks Preschool **Enrollment:** 13 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28281

Street: 111 S Douglas **City:** Afton Iowa **Zip** 50830 **County:** Union

Mailing Address: PO Box 153, Afton, IA, 50830

Director's Name: Regan Fehrle **Phone Number:** 641-344-7301

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** reganfehrle@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-12-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 04-06-2022

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			15		15
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 02-19-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Joyful Sparks Preschool on 4-5-2025. The center is located in the Methodist Church. Joyful Sparks Preschool is a non-profit organization that is run by the board. The center provides preschool services on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. I met with the Director, Regan Fehrle. Regan has been the director since 1999, she has a Master's Degree in Early Childhood, Special Education and a Preschool Endorsement. There are 13 children enrolled.

Observation of room:
The preschool uses one large room. There are boys and girls restrooms with two toilets and one sink in each. The center looks great and has a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Toys and equipment are rotated frequently. The children's fun art work is displayed. The children were having fun playing in the activity centers. Regan and her assistant teacher Deb had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
Creative Curriculum/Teaching Strategies Gold and Handwriting Without Tears are used. Regan develops the daily lesson plans with related fun hands on learning experiences for the children. The children participate in food experiences. The center provides family events throughout the year.
Every year the center has a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. A monthly newsletter/calendar is provided to the parents. Regan has two parent teacher conferences each year to discuss goals and progress.

Nutrition:
The children that participate in full day programming bring their lunch, proper refrigeration is provided.. The center has an open snack time where healthy snacks are provided and the children can choose was they would like. Appropriate food storage practices are maintained. The center has a snack area.

Health and Safety:
Radon testing was completed in December 2022 with a test result of 1.6 pCi/L. Radon testing requirements have changed, please refer to the handbook for information on ratio and the frequency of radon testing. Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly. The center has a carbon monoxide detector. Make sure you have an annual fuel burning inspection, if you have fuel burning appliances. The first aid kit looked good. No children are administered medication during the preschool hours.
The emergency preparedness plan has been completed.
The center uses Sanidate Hard Surface Sanitizer.

Playground:
The playground area is fenced and has a play house, plastic climber, benches, shade structure and a shed. The focus is on a natural outdoor classroom. They have a cement area that is used for riding trikes, side walk chalk and other activities. Pea gravel is used for surfacing. Monthly playground inspections are completed. There is a new playhouse on the playground and wood walk ways will be added.

Transportation:
The preschool doesn't provide transportation services. Some of the children utilize the transportation service from the Trolley. Field trips are taken throughout the year to a variety of places such as Blank Park Zoo, science center, farm, pumpkin patch. The parents provide transportation for their own children to field trips.

Administrative Files:
Your center has the required postings - mandatory reporting of child abuse, no smoking, consultant information and emergency information. The center has the required policies and procedures.
Staff and child files were in excellent order.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Regan has a wonderful preschool program. Regan and Deb had excellent interactions with the children. The children participate in fun hands on learning opportunities.

The center has received grants and they have new flooring, new blinds, a new dishwasher, adding a hood for the stove, a new roof on the shed, new play house on the playground, and wood walk ways will be added to the playground area. Fundraising events are held throughout the year. Family oriented activities are offered throughout the year i.e. muffins with mom, donuts with dad, family night, and a spaghetti dinner.
The center is working on the IQ4K level 1.
The center is participating in the WAGES program.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 4-1-2025 to 4-1-2027.

*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.