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

Name of Center: First Kids Preschool and Child Care **Enrollment:** 27 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21423

Street: 718 Clay Street **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Susan Heichel **Phone Number:** 319-266-9289

On-Site Supervisor(s): Deana Herzmann **E-Mail:** firstkids@aboutfirst.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-10-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 07-20-2022

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	23	13	28	0	64
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	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 01/10/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to First Kids Preschool and Child Care in Cedar Falls. I met with Susan Heichel, the director, and Deana Herzmann, the on-site supervisor. Ms. Heichel and Ms. Herzmann have been with the program since 2002. There are eight staff members employed by the center, not including Ms. Heichel and Ms. Herzmann.

The center is in First United Methodist Church. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 4:30 pm. It serves children ages six weeks through six-years-old (or before they start Kindergarten). The center offers a three-year-old and a four and five-year-old preschool program that runs 8:30-11:00 am Monday through Friday. There are currently 27 children enrolled.

The program operates out of the following classrooms: infants (six weeks to approximately 12-14 months), Toddler 1 (12-14 months until 24 months), Toddler 2 (two-year-olds) and preschool (three through five-year-olds). An inspection of each room was completed. Artificial lighting is used in each room because windows are not available. 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.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, Play-Doh writing, math, science/discovery, 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.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Activities are planned around themes. The length of the theme depends on the topic and the children's interest level. Lesson plans were available for review.

The infant room has two areas that are divided by an accordion curtain. One half is where the cribs are located, and the other half is where they children are cared for when they are awake. You must always maintain visual supervision of the children in both rooms. If there is an infant sleeping, you must position the crib so you can see the child.

There are not phones in every room. There is a phone outside the infant room and in the office and emergency numbers were posted. Each room does have an emergency posting with phone numbers, the center's address and phone number. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits. Daily schedules were posted in each room except for the preschool room. The teacher in that room had taken it down to revise it.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in January 2023 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 was in the hallway on the

ceiling near the entrance. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/20/22.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Ms. Heichel and Ms. Herzmann are the cooks. The center has five rotating menus for the summer season and five rotating menus for the winter season. All the children except for the infants are served their meals in a lunchroom. The food is dished out to the children. Family style is not used. Disposable products are mostly used. Dishes are returned to the kitchen to be washed in the dishwasher. Menus were posted.

The program provides one brand of formula, cereal and baby food for the infants. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Bottles are prepared in the classroom. The staff member states bottles are washed in the classroom, but they are not being sanitized. If you wash bottles in the room, you must use the three-step method, so they are sanitized. Ms. Heichel states typically the bottles and highchair trays are put through the kitchen dishwasher.

There are three refrigerators and one upright freezer in the lunchroom area. Thermometers were present. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and Toddler 1 room and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables.

I observed a diaper change in the Toddler 1 room. The children's hands must be washed with soap and water following the diaper change, not just water. Additionally, the staff member must wash their hands after every diaper change. I discussed the diaper change process with the infant room staff member. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper.

The program added a fenced-in playground. Rubber mulch is used for fall surface cushioning. There is a piece of climbing equipment that has slides, a play castle and other activities. Shade is primarily provided by the building. The program also has use of the church gym.

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.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. Several were on the floor with the children and had children on their laps. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. They maintained positive conversation while engaging in child-friendly activities. They provided good reminders about washing their hands. Ms. Whittenberg provided clear and concise easy to understand directions to the children while working on a craft. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Heichel states Jennifer Whittenberg has stepped in as their preschool teacher and has been great. She is flexible and steps in where they need her.

Ms. Heichel states she likes that the childcare program is in a church. It makes them feel safer and the church does help them when necessary. The program is a ministry of the church.

The program provides a nurturing Christian environment to children and their families.

Ms. Heichel and Ms. Herzmann are very organized and are committed to the childcare program.

Ms. Heichel and Ms. Herzmann have been with the program since 2002 which provides stability to the program. They have a terrific working relationship and know licensing standards well. They have great teamwork.

Ms. Heichel states they have a smaller childcare center which allows them to know their families on a more personal and intimate level. They center provides a family atmosphere.

Ms. Heichel states they work with the parents to meet their needs and they are flexible. They have good relationships with the parents.

Ms. Heichel and Ms. Herzmann make frequent trips to the program rooms to check on the staff members and the children. They are available to help when needed and give the staff members their breaks.

The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

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

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: I observed a diaper change in the Toddler 1 room. The children's hands must be washed with soap and water following the diaper change, not just water. Additionally, the staff member must wash their hands after every diaper change. I discussed the diaper change process with the infant room staff member. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed prior to putting on the new diaper.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. 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.