Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Grundy Community Preschool

Provider No.: 34186

Address: 1001 8th St, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

County: Grundy

Director's Name: Kim Brower

On-Site Supervisor: Rhonda Kruger

Phone Number: 3198256257

E-Mail: rkruger@spartanpride.net

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/05/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			58		58
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Grundy Community Preschool on 08-27-25 and again on 09-23-25 where I met with on-site supervisor Rhonda Kruger. The program was not in session on the day of the first visit but the physical facilities and administrative records were reviewed, and the program was observed in operation during the second visit. The program is partnered with the Grundy Center Child Care center overseen by Kim Brower as the program director and Ronda Kruger as the on-site supervisor. Rhonda is well qualified for the position having not only a teaching degree but also having been working in early childhood care and education for the past 20+ years. The program is located in the former elementary school building. The program provides preschool programming only, serving children 3 and 4 years of age. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during this visit.

The layout and design of the building and classrooms remain the same as in the prior visit. The program makes use of 3 classrooms on the upper level of the building. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to maintenance. Two of the classrooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The third room is an interior room which has no windows and makes use of artificial lighting. Each classroom has restroom facilities available directly accessible from the classrooms. Each also has additional sinks in the room which can be used for hand washing. Two of the classrooms have a small connecting room between the main classrooms that can be used for 1:1 programming. An intervening door also allows for secondary emergency egress but the building also has fire suppression sprinklers. The building does have a basement level which is used for a storm shelter. Each classrooms makes use of furniture, shelves, and play structures to define activity centers and a teacher work desk which are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas. Each activity center was observed to have a good variety of materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. One issue that was noted is that in the classroom utilized by Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Hankins was that the room has a coridored ramp to the exit door. A large manipulatives activity center was located at the end of the ramp and during the visit children were observed to be playing with the toys on that access ramp. This does create a concern for exiting in the event of the need for emergency evacuation and options for rearranging the room were discussed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed with the teachers presenting the planned curriculum or otherwise attending to the children's needs. Each classroom follows an established schedule and curriculum. On the day of the visit the curriculum focus was Fall events and included an annual activity of the children assisting with measuring ingredients and mixing batter for zucchini bread. Other interactions including teachers doing 1:1 skill assessments, interacting with children as they engaged in self-directed center play, or leading large group activities such as reading to the children. In addition to the

direct teaching activities of the teachers also use indirect methods such as asking the children explorative questions about their play, or suggesting elements such as making patterns or groupings of specific numbers. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers using routines, reminders, positive recognition, redirection, and guided problem solving to encourage appropriate behavior. The teachers maintain a focus on safety and peer interactions with examples of, "we just talked about chairs are for sitting" when children were observed climbing on chairs, or having the child take turns when competing for activities. All of the teachers used calm positive tones of voice when speaking to the children. Ratio was maintained as required with at least 2 teachers present in each classroom.

Good health and safety policies and practices were generally observed on the day of my visit but there were some issues that the center should review. During the visit the teachers did remind children to wash their hands before snacks, after room use, and other times as needed. However some children were observed to not follow through with washing their hands before sitting down for snack. Tables were sanitized both before and after snack service. When using chemical cleaners the staff would wait until the children were engaged in a group activity away from the areas being cleaned. Chemical cleaners, medications, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. Children with identified health concerns did have response plans present in their files. First aid kits are maintained throughout the center and contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Snacks are provided by parents and the center does maintain a limited supply of snack items to supplement as needed to ensure that nutritional content requirements are met. Good food storage and service practices were observed on the day of my visit. Each classroom had a small refrigerator present and each was secured so as not to be a topple hazard. Thermometers were present in all units to ensure that proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. A list of served items was maintained for each class. Supervision was provided at the table while the children were eating.

The center has several playground spaces available but the preschool program makes use of one fenced playground space that has a climbing structure, swings, sandboxes, and other equipment for the children to play with. Fall surfacing includes an area of stabilized rubber mulch beneath the climbing structure, and loose rubber mulch in other areas. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the developmental levels of the children. Shade is provided by the play structures, and large trees that are located in an attached grassy area.

A review of administrative records found that all required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and Consultant Contact were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency numbers, handwashing, curriculum plans, and daily schedules were also present. A review of staff files found all required information and documentation to be present in each file for all staff with the exception of 1 staff that needed a renewed National Fingerprint background check. While the center was still within the first 30 days of operation for the year and working to obtain all required physicals and immunization certificates the center did have enrollment and contact information for each child. All required inspection certificates and logs were available and current

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-- Documentation was expired for 1 employee and needs to be renewed.

109.10(6): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene.
-- While the teachers did remind children to wash their hands prior to snack service several children were observed to get in line but then leave the line before washing their hands. Teachers do need to ensure that children not only wash their hands but do so in an effective manner.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

Rhonda stated that she would renew the background check that had expired for Mrs. Hankins, and would remind teachers to

supervise hand washing.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended at this time. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 09/29/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.