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

Name of Center: Grace Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 33 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30290

Street: 1407 W 5th St **City:** Storm Lake Iowa **Zip** 50588 **County:** Buena Vista

Mailing Address: 1407 W 5th St, Storm Lake, IA, 50588

Director's Name: Anne Mohr **Phone Number:** 712-732-5005

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** lutherangrace1951@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-13-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 08-31-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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			24		24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-05-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Grace Lutheran Preschool program on 02-13-24 where I met with center director Anne Mohr. Anne is will qualified for the position having extensive experience and training in early childhood programming having been with this program since 2003. Connie Taylor is the classroom assistant and started with the program at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. The program is located in a single classroom in the lower level of the Grace Lutheran Church and is overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program provides preschool programming only in two sessions with one for 3 year old children, and the other for 4 year old children. There are currently 33 children enrolled between the two sessions served by 2 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The classroom arrangement and program operation remains the same as in previous reports. There is a secondary emergency exit that provides direct access to the outdoors. The exit was clear of obstruction and doorways opened freely and easily. Windows along the upper edge of the exterior walls provide ample natural light, a limited view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Restrooms are located down the main hallway and children are escorted to the bathrooms as needed. A sink is present in the classroom to allow for hand washing and food preparation activities. The classroom is a large open space with activity centers that are defined by the placement of furniture and play structures. All equipment in the classroom was in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The center does have a large dramatic play barn structure, and an outdoor climbing structure in the classroom. The climbing structure does make use of foam tiles that would meet CPSC Playground fall surfacing requirements. The room was observed to be clean with no concerns regarding maintenance noted.

A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum is posted on the parent board at the entrance to the classroom. The planned curriculum theme on the day of my visit was Valentines, and the letter S. Good interactions were observed with the class following the planned schedule and curriculum moving between child directed free play activities, small group teacher lead, and large group teacher lead activities. The center uses a positive behavioral support approach to managing behavior and Anne and Connie both do an excellent job of implementing that approach. This was observed with both playing with the children and reviewing positive behavior choices, using guided directions of identifying specific tasks for the children, and recognizing positive behaviors.

The center continues to follow good health and safety practices with providing supervision for restroom use and hand washing, waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners, and storing items that could pose a safety risk to children where they are not accessible children. The center first aid kit was well stocked with materials to address common first aid needs. The center does not routinely administer medications but policies are in place regarding the authorization, storage, administration, and documentation should it become necessary. The center did have allergy response plans for those children with identified allergies related to food, but not for children with identified medication related allergies. As a reminder an allergy response plan is required for all identified allergies including medication and environmental allergies even though the program does not routinely administer medications.

The parents take it in turn to provide snacks and the center does maintain a limited supply of snack items to supplement as

needed. A calendar of snack items that are actually served was maintained and generally showed that credible options were provided. A limited supply of snack items is maintained to supplement if needed. A small refrigerator is available in the classroom to maintain cold holding temperatures if needed. Good food storage practices were observed for both dry pantry and refrigerated items. The teachers do sit and eat with the children which provides supervision and models good social interactions and eating habits.

The center playground was reviewed and the pea gravel used for fall surfacing had developed a hardpan layer. The climbing structures cannot be used until the fall surfacing has been aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of loose material. the climbing structure is of wooden construction and while beginning to show its age did appear to be structurally sound. It was noted that some boards were showing some weathering there did not appear to be significant concern for splintering but the unit does need to continue to be monitored for maintenance. The program also makes use of the parking lot for a hard surface play area and has cones which can be placed to close off a designated area for play. Shade is available from the building and trees.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices and postings were present in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. Both staff files were reviewed and contained current information for all required documentation. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has been very consistent and stable over the years. This allows the teachers to have more training and the ability to assess and modify the program as needed to accommodate the needs of each class from year to year. The result is a strong curriculum focused program with a very positive reputation in the community.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The fall surfacing beneath the climbing structure has developed a hardpan layer that is insufficient to provide adequate safety. The climbing structure shall not be used until the fall surfacing has been aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material as required by the CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf)

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year 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.