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

Name of Center: Kinder Cottage Preschool **Enrollment:** 29 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30203

Street: 3204 S Lakeport **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51106 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 3204 S Lakeport, Sioux City, IA, 51106

Director's Name: Tara Vander Weil **Phone Number:** 712-224-2276

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kcpreschool1976@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-12-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-22-2024

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

Date Inspected: 09-05-2023

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General		10	18		28
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 11-13-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A visit was made to Kinder Cottage Preschool on 11-12-24 and spoke with director Tara Vander Weil. Ms Vander Weil has an elementary Education degree and thirty four years of experience working with children. Kinder Cottage Preschool is housed in the Redeemer Lutheran Church. The preschool occupies one large room with a bathroom located inside the room in the upper level of the church. In January 2022 they extended their day until 3:15pm. The program serves children ages 3-5 year olds. The preschool program operates during the school year 8:45am to 11:30am and those that want extended stay will start at 11:30am to 3:15pm daily. The program has 4/5 year olds Monday, Wednesday, Fridays, and 3 year olds Tuesday/Thursdays. The church renovated the lower level of the building to where they had a Mom's Day out program. They currently are not providing the Mom's Day out program due to low numbers and staffing. The room has a capacity of 10 for children 2.5 years and older(Fire Marshall has stated that they require children age 2 1/2 and older can occupy room). Capacity between both programs is 28(18 preschoolers 3-5 year olds & 10 for 2 1/2 to 5 year olds for Moms day out.

There are 29(16 - 3yr olds and 13 - 4 yr old) children enrolled in the program. At the time of the visit there were 16 children present. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, five senses, globe of the world, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. The preschool has a bible based curriculum. They have cots for the extended children.

The room for the Mom's Day Out program remains closed for the 2024/2025 school year. This part of the program will be accessed yearly to see if there is a need.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
The Extended day program serves lunches thru the Sioux City Community School which is delivered and then the center preps the meal for those children who stay to eat lunch. They are not currently on the food program but follows it. The center provides nutritious snacks for the the children. Menus are sent home monthly with the children and are posted on the parent board. Refrigerator is clean and kept at the appropriate temperature.

Center Health & Safety.
Center need to have medication documentation. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented. Monthly fire/tornado drills are completed. Radon test was and Annual furnace inspection was not available at the time of the visit. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a fenced-in playground adjacent to the building. The playground has slides and climbing equipment. Surfacing material has rubber mulch around all the equipment. Monthly playground inspection completed. Shade is

available on the playground. The church gymnasium is also available for gross motor skill activity during inclement weather.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The preschool program has one field trip a year and the staff drive rented vans. Speakers usually come to the center. The Mom's Day out program does not go on field trips.

Goals of the center: Program has a survey to parent's regarding to see if any changes need to be done to the program next school year.

Strengths of the program is that they are Christian based and have smaller numbers in their classrooms to provide more one on one with the children. The program allows for choice of 1/2 day Preschool or to do extended stay as well as they have a good relationship with the children and their parents.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff are invested in the program and work well with parent's and the children. Center is a Christian based program.

The center has some fundraising events throughout the year. A newsletter is sent home each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

Center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Display children’s art work in the room.

Center has child size furniture.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

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 dental: 1
Information lacking: Information was missing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program director will email consultant by 12-20-24 confirming that all items that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next 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.