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

**Name of Center:** Great River Christian School & Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21194

**Street:** 426 Harrison Ave **City:** Burlington Iowa **Zip** 52601 **County:** Des Moines

**Mailing Address:** 426 Harrison Ave, Burlington, IA, 52601

**Director's Name:** Carrie Shride **Phone Number:** 319-753-2255

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Laura Francisco **E-Mail:** cshride@greatriverchristianschool.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 01-03-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **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:** 01-11-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 02-08-2023

**Comments :** completed by Burlington Fire Department Mark Crooks, due annually

**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 X Other 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 | | | 66 | | 66 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Jill Seibert **Date:** 01-11-2024

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

Great River Christian School and Preschool is located in Great River Christian School in a residential area of Burlington. The building was a former elementary school. The program provides preschool for three- and four-year-old children. After school care is also provided this year (2024) to both preschool and school age children. Director Shride has held this position since 2022 and meets the 100 point requirement to be a Director. Ms. Shride had ten years of registered in home childcare experience prior to teaching at Great River from 2018-2022. The center is located inside of Great River Christian School and the preschool rooms are located on the main floor and basement area of the building. She is the Assistant Early Education Director for GRCS.

The downstairs classroom is utilized by 3 year old children. The upstairs classroom serves 4-5 year old children.

I visited the center on 1/3/24 on an unannounced licensing visit. I later collaborated with Principal Laura Francisco regarding administrative topics. Arteas covered are activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, building safety and administrative review.

Each classroom has age-appropriate curriculum posted. Lesson plans were appropriate which included: active and quiet times, large-group activities, small group activities and time to play alone or with others, indoor and outdoor playtimes, and time for children to select their own activities and teacher directed activities. A wide variety of toys, educational games, puzzles, and books were available to the children to utilize. They were all in good condition. The environment has always been clean and well maintained. Classrooms are decorated with educational materials that were age appropriate.

Preschool Nutrition Practices:

The center chooses to participate in the CACFP Program. The centers had thermometers in all refrigerators and freezers. The center offers lunch. This meal is prepared by the school cook. The center rotates the menu monthly. Parents are expected to provide snack on a rotating basis. The center does have foods on hand to supplement snack to meet CACFP guidelines. The preschool provides milk and juice for snack. Menus should be kept noting that each child was served a nutritionally balanced meal and snack as defined by CACFP guidelines. An after-school snack is served to the preschool and school age children. Administration agrees to begin recording after school snacks.

Preschool Health and Safety:

Medications are stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. Medications are inaccessible to public, and the center is able to provide documentation of medication given. Staff and children were observed hand washing and they followed recommendations from the IDPH for appropriate hand washing. All first aid supplies recommended by the IDPH are available in the centers first aid kits. Small nylon first aid back packs with flashlights are in both classrooms and after school classrooms.

Tornado and Fire Drills were practiced and documented once a month as required. Radon and heating annual testing were

reviewed. Updated radon testing is due every five years. A gas stove in the kitchen was installed in 2019. The Rheem gas hot water heater in the basement was installed in 2018. Both units require an annual fuel burning appliances inspection. Brockway conducted the inspections on 10/23/23. A boiler inspection is also required. The Division of Labor conducted the inspection in August 2023. The center did have carbon monoxide detectors as required. Ventilation is good as the program has high ceilings.

CCNC Nancy Granaman stated, "I did a visit on 12/14/22. A Medication Administration competency test out was done and a new business partnership was signed with Carrie. We discussed IQ4K but I don't think they are interested due to not participating in the food program.

I am on a fiscal year July-July so try to see everyone I have a partnership with in that time frame yearly. I have her on my list to see yet this year."

No children in either program have a documented allergy. If one develops an allergy action plan should be signed by a physician.

Preschool Playground:

The center playground includes: merry cycle, swings, slides, painted concrete games, bicycles, little tikes toys, watering cans, rakes, shovels, picnic tables, jumping ropes and balls. Surfacing is provided by mulch. Gaps in the fence or places where it is loose on the bottom and should be secured in some manner so that it is not a potential entrapment hazard. Caps have been reinstalled on screws on the fence.

The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized to determine if children go outside to play in varying weather conditions. Emergency contact sand medication and a first aid kit should be taken outdoors or to the gymnasium with the preschool.

Preschool Field Trips and Transportation:

The center chooses to offer field trips and only utilizes public transportation. They have visited the library, Stars Cave, fire station, and parks. First aid kits are taken along and field trip ratio is followed. Emergency contacts are taken as well as any emergency medication.

Preschool Administrative Records:

Curriculum, schedules and routines are followed daily. The preschool website states, "Through the exploration of activities meaningful to the individual child, learning becomes an adventure. Our Pre-School program for 3 & 4 yr. olds allows center exploration, intro. to letters and numbers, art, music, calendar and enrichment." The program offers Bible/Chapel, Arts & Crafts, Skills Development, Language Development, Character Development, Introduction to Phonics, Introduction to Numbers and Learning Centers.

Mandatory Reporter, Handbook Availability, Consultant Contact, License, Emergency Procedures for fire and tornado, and no smoking signs are all posted.

Child and staff files are reviewed each year. The program tracks child physicals to ensure outdated physicals are updated. Administration has already addressed immunization records/religious exemption issues. Des Moines County Public Health performed an immunization audit on 10/23/23. No deficiencies were noted. All school age children enrolled have completed Child Health Forms. At the beginning of each school year dental and medical information as well as emergency contacts, pick up and field trip authorizations are signed by parents.

All policies and procedures were reviewed. The Director is typically very organized.

The program employs two staff and two substitutes. The principal agreed to ensure all staff are trained on the Preschool/After school care Emergency Preparedness Plan and sign and date acknowledgment of such.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ratio is excellent.

The center director and teachers work well as a team to ensure compliance with rules and regulations.

The center has been well maintained.

The center has visitors come to the center including: Nature Center and Art Center Staff.

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

1. 109.7(2) Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. All staff (within first 3 months of employment)

Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.
At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.
Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.
Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.
Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.

The substitute needs UP training and updated PD training. She needs to submit a physical. Principal Francisco indicated she and the other school staff that sometimes fills in in the after-school program needed to update her files as well (Professional Development and other required trainings).

2. 109.10(15)c Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans. The principal agreed to ensure all preschool and after school staff are trained on the emergency preparedness plan.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

This program has no record of validated complaints. Further it has a history of excellent staff to child ratios, curriculum and supervision practices. The past several years violations have been low due to Director leadership.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant Nancy Granaman (Iowa Department of Public Health). Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. It is recommended the program contact CCNC Granaman and request she conduct an Injury Prevention Checklist1.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Tabitha Copeland. They offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, IQ4K, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have.

*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.