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

Name of Center: Van Meter United Methodist Kids Care **Enrollment:** 107 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25861

Street: 100 Hazel St **City:** Van Meter Iowa **Zip** 50261 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: PO Box 149, Van Meter, IA, 50261

Director's Name: Jessica Jaspers **Phone Number:** 515-996-2572

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shayna Smith and Sarah Wyckoff **E-Mail:** kidscare@vmumc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-29-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-07-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-12-2022

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years. The center will be due for another inspection in 9/2025.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	0	0	17	69	86
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-29-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 7/29/24. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Van Meter United Methodist Kids Care is a childcare program for four year old and school age children and located in the United Methodist Church. The center operates a preschool, a before and after school program during the school year, and all day programming during the summer using one large classroom and one smaller room down the hall. During the school year, school-age children can attend from 6:30am - 8:00am and again from 3:15pm - 5:45pm. Again, there is a preschool component as well. Summer programming is from 7:00am - 5:45pm. The center utilizes their own curriculum, which is Christian based.

The program is non-profit and overseen by a Board. Jessica Jaspers is the director. Jessica has a BA degree and several years of experience working in child care, including past experience as a director at another program. Shayna Smith is one on-site supervisor as of 6/2022. Shayna has past experience working in child care and has completed a number of training hours to meet the requirements for on-site supervisor. Sarah Wyckoff is another on-site supervisor as of 7/2023. Sarah has an AA degree, her CDA, and past experience working in child care.

During the visit, all of the children were outside on the playground areas. Staff were spaced out among the different groups of children. Children were divided into two large groups initially. As children needed to use the restroom, staff made sure to communicate with each other to ensure supervision inside was also being followed. Children were observed washing their hands.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a good working relationship with the church they are located in as well as other businesses in the community. The center participates in several charity projects within the community over the summer months.

Panera Bread continues to donate food to the center a couple of times each week.

The center has a lot of storage space.

Additional information about the center can be found on the church website. The center also uses a private electronic app called Child Pilot to communicate with parents.

The center splits children into two different groups which allows for better supervision and better transitions between activities, etc.

The director has past experience being a director and is organized.

The director believes she has a good staff working for her and that they have good relationships with the families they serve.

The center has a full-size school bus and a van they use for transportation needs.

The center is a pick up and drop off site for school-age children during the school year.

Enrollment remains steady.

Some playground renovations (new equipment and new fence, swing mats) were installed over the past year. There have also been some internal renovations (fresh coat of paint) in the big classroom.

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

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: 1minor staff member needs to be fingerprinted. All minor staff (16 and 17 years of age) are required to be fingerprinted.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
The evacuation procedures in the big classroom were not posted on the day of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was conducted in both classrooms 7/14/23 - 7/16/23. Both classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed on 7/17/24.

As previously mentioned, the center has their own full-size school bus as well as a van that they use for transportation of children to field trips.

IQ4K and I-Power were again discussed at the visit. Staff will need to upload training certificates into I-Power if I - Power doesn't automatically do it.

It is recommended that staff files be organized directly per the staff tracking sheet as staff become more tenured over the years.

The fence on the playground is new. The bolts where the fence comes together and the bolts on the gate will need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

The seal on the kitchen refrigerator was loose and needs to be repaired/replaced.

The center will again have to caulk around the edges of the roof emergency exits on the bus as water leaked in after last night's heavy storms.

It was noted that one child immunization needs to be transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form.

*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.