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

Name of Center: Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare **Enrollment:** 69 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28762

Street: 5245 Northland Ave NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 5245 Northland Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Brooke Higgins **Phone Number:** 319-363-3683

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Quelle, Morgan Heaton, Hannah Kick **E-Mail:** Brooke.Calvarycc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-18-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 03-19-2024

Comments :

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	39	24	54	25	142
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 12-02-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare is a non-profit program which was established in fall, 2009. During it's history, the childcare program did undergo a relocation in November, 2023. Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare is a ministry of and located inside of Calvary Community Church which is a non-denominational Christian Church. Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 5:30pm. The non-profit program serves children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 69.

Director is Brooke Higgins. Ms. Higgins has been with this program since it opened and assumed the director role position 10/1/2022. Ms. Higgins has an early childhood para educator certificate, over 11 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Heather Quelle has been in the position since fall 2022. Ms. Quelle has a BA degree in elementary education, experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Morgan Heaton has been in the position since April 2023. Ms. Heaton has prior experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Hannah Kick has been in the position since August 2023. Ms. Kick has an AA degree in early childhood education, experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/18/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare is a well-established program offering many different early learning opportunities and childcare option to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare was established in 2009 and is currently celebrating their 15-year anniversary. Congratulations!

Calvary Christian Preschool has the following website for persons to gain knowledge about the program: http://calvarychristianpreschool.com/.

The philosophy of Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare is to "...provide quality care and treat each child as if they were our own. We strive to provide a rich, nurturing environment for your child's cognitive, social, emotional and physical growth in a fun learning environment....Teachers work cooperatively with each family to suit the child's individual needs."

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare has a history of participation in quality initiatives including local quality initiatives. Ms. Higgins talked about possible future goals related to participation in CACFP.

Ownership of Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare has remained consistent. Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare is a ministry of Calvary Community Church and is governed by a board. Building and grounds are maintained. Church administration, church custodial/maintenance staff, and the board help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. In August 2024, Calvary Christian Community Church added to their mission by opening the on-site Calvary

Christian Academy which has provisional accreditation through Christian Schools International (CSI). Full accreditation for the academy will occur in 2025 at the kindergarten through 8th grade level ensuring high academics and Biblical standards both with the state of Iowa and the Christian community.

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare's management team (e.g. Brooke Higgins, Heather Quelle, Morgan Heaton, Hannah Kick) is consistent and seasoned. The management team is also organized and has established systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are complete and maintained as required in a secure manner. Management is familiar with licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Ms. Higgins talked about a newly created assistant director - intervention coordinator position to help support curriculum and manage behaviors throughout all classrooms.

The program continues to retain their skilled employees as well as hire a few new ones. Staff reported being employed with Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare for 13 years, 8 years, 6 years, and 1 year. Congratulations on staff longevity - including staff longevity through the 2023 relocation! Ms. Higgins acknowledged their solid team of employees who work hard and are passionate about children. Ms. Higgins indicated celebrating staff success is part of the program's operations.

Since the last review, a building safety team was established and building security measures updated. The capacity to accept additional infants increased. An outdoor gaga pit was added. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are nicely displayed and being celebrated! Furnishings are child friendly. Materials are accessible to children. Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare uses a combination of Abeka Curriculum and Creative curriculum in all classrooms. Curriculum additionally incorporates teacher inspired ideas, on-site guest speaker events, enrichment experiences, and off-site field trips. Ms. Higgins discussed future goals related to continued building improvement projects as well as outdoor play area updates.

During the annual visit, the aroma of day's lunch preparation could be enjoyed throughout the building! Kitchen and food storage areas were observed to be extremely organized, sanitary and well-maintained. Ms. Heather has ServSafe certification and been the program's culinary expert since spring 2021. Ms. Heather continues to take great pride in being able to prepare interesting and enjoyable foods for the children. Ms. Heather talked about center favorites including meals/dishes incorporating fresh vegetation from the program's on-site gardens. Infant foods are homemade.

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare collaborates well with those throughout the community including local school districts, early access persons, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. The church and preschool have a history of community outreach activities including sponsoring community families and supporting area needs.

Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program is working to develop organized parent-staff/program information areas in the new building, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included parent/family night out events, parent/program conferences, preschool graduation ceremony, Polar Express PJ Party and Christmas program, off-site field trips (local pumpkin farm, fire station, nature center, and local parks), and successful summer camp experiences. Notes expressing thanks and gratitude from families towards staff were observed is some areas of the building.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning reminders were found in various areas of the program space.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included winter animals and Thanksgiving. Activities observed throughout the classrooms were many (e.g. infant cares, group circle, play experiences). Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles) that encourage innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, snack activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard encouraging social graces, engaging children in much meaningful discussion and providing positive redirection when needed. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure any window treatments are fully attached to help prevent a topple/head injury hazard.

Please ensure each diaper changing surface is nonporous to help ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting.

Consider removing the toddler room elevated table with drop-in bucket seats. These tables increase concerns related to possible cross contamination and a lack of leg and foot support for young children.

As a reminder - please consult with the fire marshal prior to installing any indoor child gates, purchasing/building any outdoor fence gates/latches and so on.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.