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

Name of Center: Wee Learners **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28393

Street: 210 W Green **City:** Winterset Iowa **Zip** 50273 **County:** Madison

Mailing Address: 708 W Jefferson St, Winterset, IA, 50273

Director's Name: Barbara LaGrange **Phone Number:** 515-473-5284

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kris Jacobsen **E-Mail:** barb@lagrange.ws

Date(s) of Visit: 09-12-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-19-2024

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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	0	0	29	0	29
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 09-12-2024

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 9/12/24. The director was present throughout the visit. The on-site supervisor was also present during this 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.

Wee Learners is a preschool program located in the First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset, IA. The preschool utilizes two classrooms on the main level of the church. The main entrance into the preschool area is located along a side entrance by the playground area. The preschool serves children ages three, four, and five years in age during the school year. Children attend either in the AM or PM, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and there are a couple of different options for times children can attend that parents can choose from. The preschool utilizes several curriculums that they use with children which include the Creative Learning Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum, Al's Pals, Sound Sensible, Everyday Mathematics, and Heggerty Curriculum. The preschool requires that all children be toilet trained (or mostly) before being enrolled.

Barb LaGrange is the owner/director of the preschool. Barb has been with Wee Learners since 2002 and the director/owner since 2006. Barb has her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education as well as several endorsements in Early Childhood Education. Kris Jacobsen is the on-site supervisor and assistant teacher. Kris has her Master’s Degree in Speech Pathology and an AA degree in Early Childhood Education. Kris has also worked at Wee Learners for many years.

During the visit, children were observed playing at the different learning stations in the classroom. Some children were playing with blocks. Other children were playing with dramatic play toys. Some children were doing art projects. Several children doing art projects were observed washing their hands after they had finished their projects. Staff were spaced out within the classroom and interacting with children and providing direction and redirection as needed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool participates in QPPS. The director has her NAC membership and NAEYC.

The preschool continues to use Al's Pals to assist children with learning good social skills and making good choices.

Communication with parents is highly stressed at the preschool. Parents get a monthly newsletter about all preschool events and happenings. Parents also get a specific, weekly report update on their child. Parent teacher conferences are held two

times a year as well as one home visit a year for children. There is a family night outing held one time a year as well as an open house at the beginning of the year.

The program uses the electronic application See - Saw for further communication with parents.

Literacy testing is conducted for all children enrolled. Portfolios are kept on all children to track progress throughout the school year (identifying shapes, colors, writing/coloring skills, etc.).

The preschool conducts daily health and safety checklists.

The director is highly organized. Weekly staff meetings are held.

The classrooms are nicely organized. Learning stations are labeled.

There is a secure entrance into the building and classrooms.

The program has a lot of extra storage space.

Children again had a lot of options to choose from on the day of the visit.

Enrollment remains steady.

A new radon mitigation system was been installed in 2023.

Over the past year updates include new flooring, new railings outside, new steps along the back door, a toddler toilet, automatic sinks, and an outside storage unit.

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.
The playground gate doesn't latch. There is also part of the fence that was damaged on the bottom in one area. IT WAS NOTED THERE IS A WORK ORDER IN FOR BOTH REPAIRS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 8/8/23 - 8/15/23 and then again 4/14/23 - 4/14/24. Radon levels came back just above the 4.0 cutoff both times so the center will again do more long-term testing and contact a radon mitigation specialist if necessary. A new radon mitigation system was installed in 2023. Because radon levels have been 4.0 or higher some of the time, the program will remain on a two year testing plan. Part of the issues in the past have to do with the basement level of the church having partially dirt floors.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 10/2/23 so it is again coming due soon.

As previously noted, the center does not transport. The only field trips taken are walking field trips to local businesses. The center will also bring in agencies for presentations to the children from time to time throughout the school year.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at 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.