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

Name of Center: Wee Wisdom **Enrollment:** 17 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25039

Street: 3500 29th Ave **City:** Marion Iowa **Zip** 52302 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 3500 29th Ave, Marion, IA, 52302

Director's Name: Michelle Heidelbauer **Phone Number:** 319-377-4689

On-Site Supervisor(s): Michelle Heidelbauer **E-Mail:** weewisdom.lcr@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-31-2024

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: 04-18-2024

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: 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			18		18
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-08-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Wee Wisdom Preschool is a nonprofit, Christian preschool sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The preschool is located inside the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Wee Wisdom Preschool operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:30am to 11:30am. The preschool offers programming to preschool-age children (age 3, 4, and 5-years-old). Current enrollment is 17.

Director of Wee Wisdom is Michelle Heidelbauer. Ms. Heidelbauer has been the director since 2010 (sole director vs co-director since fall, 2017). Ms. Heidelbauer has several years experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 1/31/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Wee Wisdom was established in 1948, and during 2024, will be celebrating the 76th year of providing a Christian preschool to the community. The longevity is celebratory! Wee Wisdom offers a 2-day and 3-day preschool program to preschool-age children and families in the community.

Wee Wisdom preschool has the following website for families and the community to learn about their program: http://www.weewisdommarion.org/home.html.

Wee Wisdom preschool's focus is "…on the educational, social, physical, and spiritual development of every student...We believe young children learn best through play...As educators, we work hard to create an environment where every student feels free to explore, create and experiment."

Wee Wisdom has a history of participation in quality initiatives currently holding a 1- star quality rating.

During the 2023-2024 preschool-year, Ms. Heidelbauer is celebrating her 13th year as director of Wee Wisdom. Congratulations! Ms. Heidelbauer has several years experience providing preschool learning and continues to participate in annual professional growth training. Ms. Heidelbauer continues to establish systems of organization in effort to maintain administrative items as required. Since the last review, Ms. Heidelbauer began using a childcare management system (e.g. technological, paper filing system) to assist her. Ms. Heidelbauer discussed the hiring of a new classroom assistant. Ms. Heidelbauer and her assistant are knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Wee Wisdom is a nonprofit, Christian preschool sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The preschool is located in a room of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Building and grounds are well-maintained. Church administration and custodial staff help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard-free each day. There is an AED machine on-site. Ms. Heidelbauer reported how the church selected Wee Wisdom for an Advent gift.

Wee Wisdom has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The preschool has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

Wee Wisdom continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Preschool 2024-2025 enrollment is commencing. Ms. Heidelbauer discussed future goals related to enrollment growth, increasing outdoor signage, and holding an April 2024 open house.

Classroom continues to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. A play-to-learn curriculum is being utilized incorporating many areas including but not limited to science units, literacy/phonics activities, the arts, math/STEM experiences, and social emotional components. Curriculum also includes s on-site guest speaker events in the area of literacy, music, and yoga, virtual field trips (e.g. Cosmic Kids Yoga), and off-site field trip experiences including trips to the local fire station, local police department, and local nature center.

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 cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing as well as hand washing.

Upon entering the preschool room, one would feel as though they were transported into outer space as the area of study was clearly "What's in Space"! Staff were observed warmly greeting children and families upon arrival for the day's preschool session. Children were encouraged to engage in gathering work activities followed by a morning walk with a short stop in the church library for a book reading of "The 3 Aliens and the Big Bad Robot". Group circle discussion included finger plays, the letter "M", Mars, and opposites. Preschool play experiences offered were many (e.g. moon rock dice roll, easel space painting, space themed puzzles, weighing space items, rocket ship sensory items, walkie talkies to reach out to other planets, shadow matching game, constellation crafting, solar system maze work). Very noteworthy was a clever "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" literacy game! Also, noted were the students choosing to dress-up as astronauts! During preschool play, inspiring classical music could be heard quietly playing. Experiences were innovative, observed to be greatly peaking child interest, and allowing for one-on-one work as well as small group social skills! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were nurturing, attentive to the children's needs and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day as evidenced by engrossing participation, exploration and laughter.

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

109.6(6): Record checks.
- One staff file (MH) lacked documentation of current federal record check results.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
- Documentation of current radon testing was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of an annual fuel burning appliance inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.