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

Name of Center: Preschool @ The Ridge **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 44019

Street: 825 NW 36th St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50023 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 825 NW 36th St, Ankeny, IA, 50023

Director's Name: Wendy Peterson **Phone Number:** 515-965-1737

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alise Sunderman **E-Mail:** wpeterson@ridgelife.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-26-2024

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:** 08-29-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-18-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years; completed by Ankeny Fire Dept.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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			75		75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 09-30-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 9-26-24. Wendy Peterson, Director was present through the visit.

Preschool @the Ridge is located in the Prairie Ridge Church and has been operating since 2014. The preschool offers sessions for three, four and five year old children, both in the morning and afternoon. The five year old children meet four days a week from 8:45 am to 2:00 pm. The three and four year old sessions from 8:45 am to 11:15 AM.. Wendy Peterson is the director of the preschool program and meets qualifications for this position. Assistant Director, Alise Sunderman has been the AD since 2021; She has previous director experience and teaching experience. She meets the qualifications for this position.

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

Room Observations: . The preschool uses the 2nd Step program which is a social curriculum, as well as a Christian Education curriculum. The rooms were observed to be very well stock with age/developmentally appropriate themes/lessons/centers/activities. The teachers were observed to maintain good structure in the room, very interactive with the children and the children to be engaged and content. There are handwashing signs present; during the time observation took place, the children were engaged in teacher-lead group activities so handwashing was not observed, but the center offers appropriate restroom/handwashing facilities/toiletries.

Nutrition Practices: This center utilizes a kitchen adjacent to a recreational gym area which is part of the church. The kitchen is clean and organized. The center offers AM/PM snacks that are in-line with CACFP. The center is not enrolled in a food program but does participate in the milk program. The children attending the full-day program bring their own lunches. Snack menus are posted and rotated. Food storage and refrigeration was organized/clean.

Health/Safety: When medication is necessary for a student; this is stored in the kitchen and accessible only to adults. If an emergency arises, all staff have been trained where/how to immediately access medication. There are handwashing poster through out the facility. There are first aid kits readily available and just newly stocked. Tornado/fire exit plans were posted and drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. The center has added storage containers/dividers to keep pre-assembled activities easily accessible. Radon testing was completed 9/1/22 and all tested areas fell below the 4.0 cutoff and is not due again until 2027. The HVAC systems are maintained/inspected at the expense of the church.

Playground: This Center utilizes a large gym for large motor skills and play; the center is located on a large campus with the church, so there is access to amble green space for outdoor play. The center received a grant; which was used to design and build their own outdoor play equipment; which was organized very nicely and readily utilized by the children.

Transportation: there is not transportation provided at this time.

Administrative review: The center has posted information regarding mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant

contact, license, fire/tornado exit plans, and non-smoking signs. Eight child files were reviewed and one was missing an updated physical or health statement; Four staff files were reviewed and contained all necessary information. The director created a system that has resulted with very organized staff files.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has continued to grown since it began in 2014; offering programs for 3, 4 and 5 year old with curriculum that compliments each year.

The parents who use this preschool like the Christian educational component that is offered; and this program is open to members of the church and of the community.

The majority of the teachers have four year degrees, many in early childhood education.

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

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment. For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This program was observed to have a variety of pre-organized activities for the classrooms that the director and teachers work to create/maintain.

The teachers were observed to maintain good structure and engagement with the children in each room.

The center continues to work toward submitting their application for IQ4K level I.

A full two-year license is recommended.

*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.