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

Name of Center: Hope West Des Moines Preschool **Enrollment:** 99 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28416

Street: 925 Jordan Creek Pkwy **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 925 Jordan Creek Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Jody Hufford **Phone Number:** 515-422-9122

On-Site Supervisor(s): Connie Keller and Heidi Gulliford **E-Mail:** jody.hufford@hopewdm.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-05-2024

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:** 08-20-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-20-2024

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	0	0	69	0	69
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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 09-05-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 9/5/24. 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.

Hope West Des Moines Preschool is located at Hope Lutheran Church in West Des Moines. The preschool has been at this location since the building was constructed in 2000. They have been in operation overall since 1994. The preschool is a mission of the church and serves children ages three through five years old. All children must be toilet trained before enrolling. The preschool is located in four classrooms in a lower level wing of the church. These rooms are shared with the church's education program which meets in the evenings. There are a couple of options parents can choose from for classes depending on their child's age. Morning classes are 9:00am - 11:30am and afternoon classes are 12:30pm - 3:00pm. There is a full-day classroom for transitional kindergarten children. There are no classes on Fridays. Classes are held only during the school year. The curriculums used by the preschool include Hand Writing Without Tears, High Scope, and elements of the Creative Curriculum. There is also a Christian based element to the curriculum.

There is a board of directors that oversee the preschool operations. Jody Hufford is the director at this program and has some oversight of the other Lutheran Church of Hope programs within the Des Moines metro area as well. Jody has her BA degree in Elementary Education. Jody also has a number of years' worth of experience working in child care centers. Connie Keller is the on-site supervisor. Connie is also the director upstairs at Hope West Des Moines Child Care Center. Connie has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience being a director at another child care center in the past. Heidi Gulliford will be another on-site supervisor as well as the preschool coordinator. Heidi has a BA degree as well as past experience being an on-site supervisor at another Hope program.

During the visit, children were observed washing their hands before sitting down for a birthday celebration/treats in one classroom. In another classroom, children were sitting down at the calendar/group area for a large group activity being facilitated by staff. In the other two classrooms, children were observed in free-choice play at the different learning stations in the classrooms. Staff were engaged with children and all of their activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Parents received a monthly newsletter as well as a weekly update regarding the preschool and children. (The weekly update is a hard copy letter and/or through email). Learning assessment are also conducted on children throughout the year and this information is kept in children's portfolios and shared with parents. Finally, Parent Teacher Conference are held for children one or two times a year depending on children's ages.

The center uses the electronic application Bright Wheels.

Staff meetings are held every four to six weeks. The directors of the Lutheran Church of Hope programs also have regular meetings.

The program has mostly tenured staff.

The preschool has a website through Hope Lutheran Church. The preschool also has a good working relationship with other church personnel.

Each classroom has a phone that has a built-in intercom system. The staff also have a walkie-talkie system to communicate between a classroom, office, and/or playground.

The preschool was again overall clean and well-lit. All classroom were nicely decorated and organized. Children seemed to be in mid-year form and adjusting well to the new school year.

The director is organized. Staff and child files were very well organized.

Enrollment remains steady.

There is a security camera system in place and entrances are also secure during program hours of operation.

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.
On the playground, the field turf is coming up in a few areas that create a potential tripping hazard. These areas will have to be repaired.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
On one of the days lunch menu in the Transitional Kindergarten classroom, a grain was missing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 8/22/22 - 8/25/22. All 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/boiler inspection was completed in 5/2024 and expires in 5/2025.

It was previously noted that the center does not transport children. The only field trips taken are field trips on the church campus. The center will also bring agencies into the center for presentations for the children.

I - Power and IQ4K were previously discussed with the director. All staff need to have I-Power profiles and should upload training certificates (also keep hard copies) if I-Power doesn't automatically upload certificates/documentation for them. Management has met with CCR&R at least initially about participating in IQ4K and the steps required.

Information on becoming an approved training organization was sent to the director after the visit concluded.

It is recommended all cabinets where first-aid kits are located also by labeled as such.

A new, 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.