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

Name of Center: Cornerstone Christian Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52708

Street: 704 Grant St **City:** Parkersburg Iowa **Zip** 50665 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 704 Grant St, Parkersburg, IA, 50665

Director's Name: Angela Meester **Phone Number:** 319-346-9806

On-Site Supervisor(s): Chloe Canfield **E-Mail:** director.cornerstone.daycare@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-08-2025, 06-12-2025, 07-03-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-11-2025

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

Date Inspected: 12-10-2024

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	9	15	20		44
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-17-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-11-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Unannounced visits were made to the Cornerstone Christian Childcare Center on 05-08-25, 06-12-25, to review program operation, and a scheduled visit was made on 07-03-25 to review administrative records. Angela Meester is the center director and is working to become fully qualified for the position. Angela did not have the required experience in early childhood care/education but began working with the program in January 2025 to gain that experience with assisting in developing policy handbooks, setting up the center, and attending training including having completed the National Administrator Credential training. Chloe Canfield was hired as the assistant director and is well qualified for that position having competed a BA in early education, and having several years of prior experience in early childhood care/education. This is the initial licensing for the center which was granted permission to open on 03-17-25. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The center has a primary focus of providing care to infants through preschool age children. There are currently 16 children enrolled in the center served by 10 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visits.

The program is located in a building that was fully renovated for use as a daycare. There are 3 classrooms divided by age group with one for infants, one for 2-3 year olds, and one for children 4 years of age and older. Each classroom has secondary exits from the classroom providing direct exit to the outdoors. The toddler and preschool classrooms have restrooms accessible directly from the classrooms, and changing stations are present in the infant and toddler classrooms. Additional sinks are present in the classrooms to provide for handwashing, and food/bottle preparation. Each classroom has windows along the exterior walls t hat provide ample natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. A coded entry door is used to control access to the center. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. During the initial visit an activity center was observed to have been arranged in front of the emergency exit for the toddler room and it was reviewed that emergency exits, and evacuation cribs must be maintained clear of obstructions at all times. These items were moved during that visit and continued compliance was observed on subsequent visits.

Good interactions were observed during each visit with the staff being actively engaged with the children. A copy of the planned daily schedule and curriculum were posted in each classroom and staff were observed to be following these. This included moving from child self-directed center play to teacher lead small group activities such as completing coloring pages with the children coloring in the number of the planned curriculum focus. The center does have a faith based focus to the program such as having Christian music playing during the day. The curriculum also includes a weekly breakdown of specific activities and the developmental goals that are to be worked on. Each teacher used calm tones and positive word choices when speaking to the children. The teachers were observed to use positive behavior management approaches such as reminders of expected behavior, redirection, and a focus on safety. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visits. During the first visit I was able to observe a diaper change and the staff did not clean the station immediately following the diaper change, but did clean before the next child. It was reviewed that this does increase the risk for staff forgetting to clean the station, or a co-worker not realizing that it has not been cleaned. On subsequent visits the staff did follow the established diapering procedures including cleaning the

station immediately following the diapering. Good cleaning practices were observed with the center properly using disinfecting and sanitizing products. Chemical cleaners, medications, employee personal items, and other items that could be a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible. One issue that was observed during the initial visit was the presence of toys with small parts that could easily break off that would be less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length. It was reviewed that these would be considered choking hazards in classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. During subsequent visits these items had been removed. Good hand washing practices were observed for both children and staff during each visit. First aid kits were present in the classrooms and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs but was missing splints, and the center did not have a first aid manual. The center had not obtained a first aid manual by the time of the final visit and a copy of a printable download was emailed to the center. Safe sleep requirements were followed for all children under 12 months of age. Older children made use of cots with appropriate bedding.

The center has a small kitchen space where snacks and breakfast are prepared. Lunch is prepared by the local school cafeteria and transported in hot/cold holding containers. Staff did wash their hands and used food service gloves before portioning meals. The meal served on the day of the first visit included Macaroni & Cheese, peas, watermelon, and milk. It was noted that a copy of a planned menu was not provided by the school and it was reviewed that the center would need to maintain a calendar of what was actually served. Good food storage practices were observed for the limited food items that are maintained at the center. Staff did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the tables when the children were eating.

The center does have an outdoor playground space but is still in the process of developing that area. The playground is fully enclosed by chain-link fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Wood mulch had been brought in and spread for use as fall surfacing and the center did have some limited residential grade toys and materials present for the children to play with. The center does intend to continue to develop the outdoor playground with the addition of equipment and a shade structure in the future.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, and the Permission To Open letter were posted at the main entry to the building. Emergency evacuation notices were not posted by all emergency exits at the time of the initial visit but had been posted by subsequent visits. Required postings for hand washing were present by all sinks used for that purpose. The required diapering procedures posting was not present by the changing station in the 2 year old classroom but notice was received from Angela following the final visit that she had installed the postings following that visit. All child files were reviewed and generally found to contain all required information but some children did not have an identified dental contact with parents noting they were too young. It was reviewed that a dental provider does need to be listed as even children with no teeth can still have injury to the mouth that is more appropriately referred to a dental provider. All staff files were reviewed and while a majority of the staff are still within the first 90 days of employment to obtain the required trainings they are nearing that deadline and will need to obtain those certificates. Inspection and drill logs were current and present for fire and tornado evacuations, fuel burning appliances, the fire marshal, and playground inspections. The center will need to conduct Radon testing within the next year. The center handbooks were reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new center where the board and staff have worked hard to provide a program to meet a need in the community.

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

109.10(7): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are:In the center.In the outdoor play area.On field trips (away from the center).
-- A copy of a first aid manual was not present in the first aid kit as required -- NOTE: A printable download was emailed to the center.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
-- The required diapering procedures posting was not present by all changing stations as required. -- NOTE: Notice was received following the final licensing visit that the posting had been installed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.