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

Name of Center: Rainbows and Friends Christian Preschool **Enrollment:** 46 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25158

Street: 403 E North St **City:** Bloomfield Iowa **Zip** 52537 **County:** Davis

Mailing Address: 403 E North St, Bloomfield, IA, 52537

Director's Name: Tracy Emmons **Phone Number:** 641-664-1606

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mary Snook **E-Mail:** r.friends1213@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-06-2023

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:** 01-06-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-13-2021

Comments : due every 3 years, completed by State Fire Marshal

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 X 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	4	10	20	10	44
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 12-15-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Rainbows and Friends is a mission of the Bloomfield Methodist Church and is located on the main level of the church in a residential area of Bloomfield. Rainbows and Friends has been licensed for 19 years. The preschool expanded services in 2021 moving from preschool programming to child care for children ages 18 months and older. The program currently employees 5 staff. Tracy is present consistently and appears to be an active leader. She has been the Director for 7 years.

Rainbows & Friends offers a transition to young children whose families prefer a half day program. Rainbows and Friends Christian Preschool occupies two classrooms in the Sunday School wing of Bloomfield United Methodist Church in Bloomfield. The preschool currently offers two classes for preschool age children two days per week and third optional day on Wednesdays. The preschool is owned and operated by Rainbows and Friends Inc., a not for profit community corporation. The director is Tracy Emmons. Ms. Emmons has an AA degree. Ms. Emmons is also a part time music instructor and emphasizes music in the program. She has several CEU units.

/Jennifer Bonner is also employed at the preschool and has been employed at the preschool for the past 10 years. She works on a part time basis. On ,6/7/23 and 11/6/23 I made unannounced licensing visits to Rainbows and Friends Christian Preschool and met with On Site Supervisor Mary Snook and staff member Jaden Prevo. Mary Snook became on site supervisor in 2021. Ms. Snook has 13 years experience in licensed child care centers. Tracy Emmons, Director of the program was available on the second visit. Three visits were made to the preschool in 2021 in preparation for adding new square feet to the program. Two visits were made last year.

Rainbows and Friends Mission Statement is to accomplish our goal of teaching non-denominational Christian values with a well-rounded early childhood hands-on program for children ages three, four and five. The preschool rooms have been rearranged for optimal flow for arrival and pickup times as well as classroom space.

The Center reports their philosophy as the following: It is our belief that each child is created in the image of our Lord with uniqueness and special qualities all their own. We believe that God's light shines within each child and it is our responsibility as Christians, parents, and teachers, to "train up a child in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6). Young children learn through play and we will provide many hands on activities to enhance and develop their cognitive, physical, and social I emotional skills.

Goals: The Child Will: Be encouraged to explore and develop their own creative interests. Be encouraged to express their own thoughts and ideas, thereby building a healthy self-concept.
Objective: Daily classroom activities are designed to offer: Hands on experience. Structured and self-select opportunities. All activities are balanced with periods of active I quiet play.
Goals: The Environment Will Be: An atmosphere of nurturing, respect, and dignity. A warm, safe, and happy place for learning.
Objective: Our environment will be enriched through: Special community people. Modeling love and respect for one another.
Field Trips Goals: The Teacher Will:

Provide positive learning experiences for children maintaining a balance between self-directed and group activities. Develop a mutually supportive relationship between home and school.
Objective: Open communication with parents & caregivers by: Newsletter published monthly. Progress reports 3 times a year. October. January. May. Parent Teacher conferences to discuss progress or concerns. Maintaining an "open door" visitation policy during preschool.

When asked about program goals, Rainbows and Friends report the following: First and foremost, my goal is to teach these young children about the love of Christ and to continue to listen to the Lord and his calling in this ministry. I look forward to enhancing my teaching and classroom activities with a variety of accredited classes, thus keeping me up to date on the best practices. These things will assist me in providing the best academic and social preparation to those enrolled, whether their next step is another year of preschool or kindergarten. I will also continue to come up with different center activities, which are the best for hands on learning and teaching at the prekindergarten level. The staff will be encouraged to keep both staff and child records updated. The staff will also be encouraged to continue their education by using outside resources and providers to enhance the excellence of the program executed at Rainbows & Friends Christian Preschool. Curriculum is Accelerated Christian Education. The daily curriculum is teacher directed, and varies from month to month.

Observations of Preschool Rooms:

The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. Staff are aware of recommendations regarding sanitizing and disinfecting, temperature checks and social distancing. Staff were wearing masks. Ratio is typically 1:4. Toddlers, preschool and school age children are served at this site.

Parents and children enter the preschool through a side door of the church (east side of the church building). It is locked with the exception of drop off and pick up times. The preschool has 2 classrooms and a coat room and separate hand washing, and a restroom area near the entry. Coats are hung on hangers on a bar that the children can access. The coat room also contains cubby holes for the children's extra belongings. Visitors may also enter the preschool area through the front entrance of the church. A secretary is present 6 hours through the day while the doors are unlocked. Signs are put up at the end of the hallway leading to the preschool area from the main entrance that read: STOP Preschool in Progress. When the children arrive they put their name tag on the I Am Here board.

The Director has her own office where office supplies and staff belongings are stored. Both preschool rooms and the coat area were organized and well kept. Storage was adequate. Extra storage is also located in a storage shed. The children use a restroom connected to one of the other rooms (infant) in the church down the hall from their rooms. A sink is outside the toilet area with appropriate paper towel dispenser.

The classrooms are bright, clean, and attractive and equipped with a satisfactory variety of child sized furniture and equipment, toys, games, and learning activities for the children. The preschool consists of a Rainbow/Library Room and a main classroom. The curriculum is theme based with a Christian values emphasis. The curriculum is described as 60% teacher directed and 40% child selected. Interest centers available to the children include: blocks and interlocking plastic pieces, children's literature, dramatic play, music and movement, art, toys and games, puzzles and small manipulatives, sensory table, and computer area.

Both classrooms lack direct exit to the outdoors, but are near an exit.

Programming includes having many community members visit such as policemen, clergy, and the Cat in the Hat (Beth Sullivan). The DNR gives annual presentations. The preschool also participates in Book It in March. The walls had months of the year posted as well as shapes, colors, and letters of the alphabet and numbers. The center encourages problem solving, movement, art, music, drawing and writing.

The Center offers a Monthly Newsletter, a Parent bulletin board, provides Assessments, has Parent/Teacher Conferences at year's end, a Christmas Program, Grandparent's Day and a Parents Day Spring Celebration.

Part of the Curriculum and Philosophy of the Preschool are service projects. Their first mission project of the year was held during the month of December where they teamed up with Yoder family to pay a debt forward. They gathered food and cleaning supplies to be delivered to the Iowa City Ronald McDonald house. This mission project was chosen in honor of a preschool friend, a survivor of childhood cancer. I reviewed Lesson Plans and schedules. They were very detailed and concise. Math, Science, Literacy or a Fine Motor activity is scheduled daily. Music and Movement, Small and Large group activity time, as well as story, bathroom, hand washing, snack time, self-select centers and pledge of allegiance, prayer and calendar time are also offered daily.

Preschool Nutrition and Practices Observed:

Snack is served daily. CACFP guidelines are known, and menus reflect such. Adequate refrigeration and storage for

snacks is available at the church. The children dine family style at snack with staff.

Allergy alerts were posted in classrooms where children had food allergies. In the past food allergies and red dye, egg, soy and wheat, and eggs have been noted to be avoided. The refrigerator in the Director's Office contains a thermometer.

Preschool Health and Safety:

The preschool does not administer prescription or non-prescription medication. They will make exceptions, if necessary. This is explained in the handbook. Medications (including sunscreen) are stored in their original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact when on the premises. Medication is stored inaccessible to children. This year no children in the program are on medication.

Regulations regarding storage and maintenance of a first aid kit were reviewed. Two First Aid Kits were labeled and kept in the office as well. Small mobile packs are available for field trips. Tracy has the list of First Aid Kit items by Iowa Department of Public Health. All items from the list should be present. She checked the list and a few items are missing in one kit but this is not a pattern of disregard.

We reviewed environmental testing and maintenance of necessary detection equipment. The church building contains gas appliances, therefore an annual fuel burning appliances inspection was conducted by Days Heating in January 2020. The preschool is on city water, thus water analysis is not required. Radon testing is required every two years. Radon testing was conducted in 2021 with results lower than 4 pci/L. A non-battery operated carbon monoxide detector was located in the hallway outside the two classrooms. The building was constructed in 1980, so a lead paint assessment is not necessary.

General regulations regarding safety policies and procedures such as tornado and fire drill logs should be completed monthly.

Paint, glue, cleaning fluids and other toxic material were kept in the Director's office. The program has no pets or plants. We discussed ratio and square feet. We discussed that each child must have 35 square feet of usable floor space per child. Electrical outlets were covered in rooms and in the hallway. On all program visits I observed the classroom and bathroom areas to be tidy and very clean. Staff clean the rooms daily and church staff mop the rooms. The classrooms have newer windows that can open for ventilation. Heating and cooling vents are on the floor and ceiling. Lighting was adequate and provided by both overhead fluorescent lighting as well as from windows. Rooms were spacious and airy. The hallway lighting was updated with new rectangular fluorescent lighting. The hallway further contains emergency lighting and an electric Exit sign by the entry way.

Volunteers should always be under the direct observation of staff. All volunteers and substitutes shall sign a statement indicating whether or not they have one of the following:
a. (1) Conviction of any law in any state or any record of founded child abuse or dependent adult abuse in any state.
(2) A communicable disease or other health concern that could pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of the children.
b. (1) Complete form 595-136 DHS Criminal History Record Check, Form B
(2) Complete Form 470-0643, Request for Child Abuse Information.
(3) Sign a statement indicating the volunteer or substitute has been informed of the volunteer??s or substitute's responsibilities as a mandatory reporter. I sent the Director a copy of the volunteer from in December after the visit.

Sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed. Food waste containers were covered. IDPH typically conducts a training annually. Sanitizing and Disinfecting guidelines should be followed and bleach/water mixed daily. A bleach/ water solution is kept in a spray bottle in the office. The bathroom area was very clean and contained a small toilet. Staff assist children in personal hygiene. Children's hands shall be washed: Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity. Adequate toileting supplies were present. A hand washing poster was above the sink.

Preschool Playground:

The children play outdoors in a grassy area and ride tricycles on an asphalt area that is coned off. They also use the parking lot area at times with chalk boundaries to play outdoor games. It is a great distance from the road. The Outdoor Weather Watch should be consulted if outdoor play is questionable due to weather conditions. Outdoor play area inspections should be performed monthly.

Preschool Transportation Arrangements and Field Trips:

The preschool does not own a vehicle and provides no transportation. Transportation for field trips is provided by a church owned and operated school bus vehicle. The students have exposure to community professionals by interaction with visitors including (dentist, librarian, fireman, rotary club, police officers & lifeguard) and field trips (Bloomfield Public Library, Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, McGowen Farm, Fire Station) and by having school pictures taken by professional

photographers. Tracy will do a water safety presentation in May at the local pool.

Preschool Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by redirection and short time-out periods of age appropriate length. The preschool is in compliance with regulations regarding required notices and postings and required written policies provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook. The handbook contains an unlimited access policy and a biting policy. Policies appear to be addressing issues adequately and working for the preschool.

An injury/ accident log is kept and added to the child's file as necessary. There were minor accidents/injury reports this past year.

A main parent board hangs in the main entrance to the preschool. It contains current license consultant information, the preschool license, the preschool schedule, curriculum, the preschool newsletter, Calendar of events, and snack list for the month. Near the main parent board are evacuation postings for fire and tornado as well as Emergency Procedure Evacuation Directions. These are also posted in the Rainbow Room. A mandatory reporter posting hangs next to the board. No Smoking signs were posted. Evacuation postings including maps were in both preschool rooms. 911 and Poison Control numbers were posted by the phone.

Staff and child records are mostly complete and well organized. They are reviewed annually. Staff Iowa Criminal background checks are due every 2 years. FBI fingerprints should be updated every 4 years. Staff physicals must be updated every 3 years, CPR/1st Aid training is due every 2 years and Universal Precautions is due annually. Mandatory Reporter training is due every 5 years and professional development must also be completed annually.

Child information reviewed are pick up authorizations, field trip authorizations and dental and medical information. We reviewed compliance with immunizations and physicals as well as file updates.

Annual emergency procedures training should be conducted every year.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool sends a monthly newsletter to parents.

The Davis County Public Health Nurse Pam Frazier visited the Preschool in January and reviewed child files.

Child Care Nurse Consultant with the Lee County Health Department has presented a "Germ Busting" presentation to the preschool in years past. She is available for consultation or for other presentations.

International Eye Care will be coming in March to conduct eye exams on the children.

The preschool visits the public library.

The fire station and a police officer have also visited.

The Center has a Christmas program.

Ratio is a strength at the Preschool.

The Director is a certified water instructor.

As the Director, in order to maintain positive interactions between children and staff:
1. Maintain a regular schedule of positive input from reliable sources such as Applebaum Training Institute. They send out a daily email and these are read often as reminders of our influence in each child's life.
2. We greet each child by name as they come into our facility but we also sing to each child by name in our opening circle time and encourage sharing through a intentional "Question of the Day".
3. We hold as a very high standard our verbal interactions and each staff member is expected to converse with a kind voice and in complete sentences for ex. no one-word directives are allowed during our preschool day.

In workforce stability:
1. We make sure to maintain a grateful attitude toward everyone contributing to the operations at Rainbows and Friends,

from our board to our volunteers. We have had very low turnover for the last 8 years due to the fact that everyone involved is fully grounded in our goal to be a faith-based part time preschool. Raises are given almost every year by the board of directors.

In skill development:
During our monthly staff meetings we review the material from the various trainings we have attended or taken and collaborate on ways to incorporate what we've learned into our established themes. Discovering new ways to help a child develop and realize their full potential is exciting and fulfilling for all involved.

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

1. 109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Number not in compliance: 3

2. 109.10(15)c: Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans. Staff have now signed the EPP (December 2023). CORRECTED

3. 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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease. The outdoor equipment is not child care appropriate. It is to be utilized for outdoor play in homes. The director agrees to replace the equipment when funds are available.

4. 109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Pizza rolls and other non approved items have been served. The center agrees not to continue to served non approved foods. They are now using Playground which tells them which foods not to serve if they enter them into the system. In process of correction

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Many improvements have been made to the program in the past years. This is obvious in the decrease in violations. This is duly noted. The program increased hours and capacity as well as services offered in 2021.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to maintain licensing regulations throughout the year. The Director agrees to correct remaining deficiencies listed in Section IV. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultants works with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have.

*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.