Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Great River Christian School & Preschool

Provider No.: 21194

Address: 426 Harrison Ave, Burlington, IA, 52601

County: Des Moines

Director's Name: Carrie Shride

On-Site Supervisor: Heather Fischbach

Phone Number: 3197532255

E-Mail: cshride@greatriverchristianschool.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/10/2025

Licensing Period: 04/01/2024 to 04/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/14/2025

Comments: completed by Burlington Fire Department Mark Crooks, due annually

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			66		66
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Great River Christian School and Preschool is located in Great River Christian School in a residential area of Burlington. The center is located inside of Great River Christian School and the preschool rooms are located on the main floor of the building. The program provides preschool for three- and four-year-old children. After school care may also be provided this year to both preschool and school age children if the program chooses to do so. Director Shride has held this position intermittently since 2022 and meets the 100 point requirement to be a Director. Ms. Shride had ten years of registered in home childcare experience prior to teaching at Great River from 2018-2022. Since the program only serves 10 children an OSS is not mandatory, however Heather Fischbach is serving in this position to assist the Director when needed.

I visited the center on 10/10/25 on an unannounced licensing visit and met with Director Shride and the new Principal. Areas covered were activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, building safety and administrative review.

The classroom has age-appropriate curriculum posted. Lesson plans were appropriate which included: active and quiet times, large-group activities, small group activities and time to play alone or with others, indoor and outdoor playtimes, and time for children to select their own activities and teacher directed activities. A wide variety of toys, educational games, puzzles, and books were available to the children to utilize. They were all in good condition. The environment has always been clean and well maintained. The classroom is decorated with educational materials that were age appropriate.

Preschool Nutrition Practices:

The center chooses not to participate in the CACFP Program. The centers had thermometers in all refrigerators and freezers. The center offers lunch. This meal is prepared by the school cook. The center rotates the menu monthly. Parents are expected to provide snack on a rotating basis. The center does have foods on hand to supplement snack and lunch to meet CACFP guidelines. Menus should be kept noting that each child was served a nutritionally balanced meal and snack as defined by CACFP guidelines.

Preschool Health and Safety:

Medications are stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. Medications are inaccessible to public, and the center is able to provide documentation of medication given. Staff and children were observed hand washing and they followed recommendations from the IDPH for appropriate hand washing. All first aid supplies recommended by the IDPH are available in the centers first aid kits. Small nylon first aid back packs with flashlights are in both classrooms and after school classrooms.

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Tornado and Fire Drills were practiced and documented once a month as required. Radon and heating annual testing were reviewed. Updated radon testing is due every five years. A gas stove in the kitchen was installed in 2019. The Rheem gas hot water heater in the basement was installed in 2018. Both units require an annual fuel burning appliances inspection. Brockway conducted the inspections on 10/23/23. A boiler inspection is also required. The Division of Labor conducted the inspection in August 2023. The center did have carbon monoxide detectors as required. Ventilation is good as the program has high ceilings. Centers built before 1978: Assessment and plan for remedy of lead paint hazard is conducted. Since the center may contain lead based paint the Director agreed to update the last lead based paint assessment to check for any new signs of chipping paint.

CCNC Nancy Granaman stated, "I did a visit on 12/14/22. A Medication Administration competency test out was done and a new business partnership was signed with Carrie. We discussed IQ4K but I don't think they are interested due to not participating in the food program. The Director agreed to review the current cleaner being used with CCNC Granaman to ensure it is an appropriate sanitizer/disinfectant for childcare.

No children in the program have a documented allergy, asthma or any other medical condition. If one develops a health care action plan should be signed by a physician.

Preschool Playground:

The center playground includes: merry cycle, swings, slides, painted concrete games, bicycles, little tikes toys, watering cans, rakes, shovels, picnic tables, jumping ropes and balls. Surfacing is provided by mulch. Gaps in the fence or places where it is loose on the bottom and should be secured in some manner so that it is not a potential entrapment hazard. Caps have been reinstalled on screws on the fence.

The Child Care Weather Watch is utilized to determine if children go outside to play in varying weather conditions. Emergency contact sand medication and a first aid kit should be taken outdoors or to the gymnasium with the preschool.

Preschool Field Trips and Transportation:

The center chooses to offer field trips and only utilizes public transportation. They have visited the library, Stars Cave, fire station, and parks. First aid kits are taken along and field trip ratio is followed. Emergency contacts are taken as well as any emergency medication.

Preschool Administrative Records:

Curriculum, schedules and routines are followed daily. The preschool website states, "Through the exploration of activities meaningful to the individual child, learning becomes an adventure. Our Pre-School program for 3 & 4 yr. olds allows center exploration, intro. to letters and numbers, art, music, calendar and enrichment." The program offers Bible/Chapel, Arts & Crafts, Skills Development, Language Development, Character Development, Introduction to Phonics, Introduction to Numbers and Learning Centers.

Mandatory Reporter, Handbook Availability, Consultant Contact, License, Emergency Procedures for fire and tornado, and no smoking signs are all posted.

Child and staff files are reviewed each year. The program tracks child physicals to ensure outdated physicals are updated. Administration has already addressed immunization records/religious exemption issues. Des Moines County Public Health performed an immunization audit annually. No deficiencies were noted. All school age children enrolled have completed Child Health Forms. At the beginning of each school year dental and medical information as well as emergency contacts, pick up and field trip authorizations are signed by parents. Three children need updated pick up authorizations and two need updated physicals. These were later found in the school files. Copies must be made to keep in HHS files.

Staff physicals are due every three years, SING checks two years, fingerprints four years, PD annually, CPR/1st Aid, two years. Mandatory Reporter training every three years and Universal Precautions within the first 90 days of employment. All staff information should be updated in IPOWER.

All policies and procedures were reviewed. The Director is typically very organized.

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The program employs two staff and two substitutes. The principal agreed to ensure all staff are trained on the Preschool/After school care Emergency Preparedness Plan and sign and date acknowledgment of such.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ratio is excellent.

The center director and teachers work well as a team to ensure compliance with rules and regulations.

The center has been well maintained.

The center has visitors come to the center including: Nature Center and Art Center Staff.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. The Director indicated these are now done as of 10/16/25.

2. 109.6(4)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. The Director related prints have been completed as of 10/16/25.

109.9(1)b All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. Two staff need updated physicals. The Director agreed to secure these.

3. 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). The Director agreed to label the First Aid kit. This has been done as of 10/16/25.

4. 109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year. Staff should be trained on emergency plans annually. The Director agreed to train staff on the EPP and have them sign and date acknowledgement of such.

5. 109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.

109.11(8)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.

The fence is loose around the bottom causing a potential entrapment hazard. The octagon climber should be checked for commercial use. Typically commercial equipment is anchored and this piece of equipment is not. Screws on the fence should be cut less than two thread bolts, or capped so they are not potential puncture hazards. The program is currently in the process of removing some of the wood border that is deteriorating.

Fuel burning appliances inspections are required annually on all fuel burning appliances in the building.

Administration will ensure current inspections are found or conducted and all outdoor play area issues are addressed. CCNC Nancy Granaman can make suggestions for the outdoor play area.

6. 109.13(1 and 2) 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. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Menus should be kept noting that each child was served a nutritionally balanced meal and snack as defined by CACFP guidelines.

The Director agreed to begin keeping snack records.

On 10/16/25 the Director sent the following email, "Heather mentioned to me this morning that you had talked with her yesterday about the staff updates.

Nancy is coming to look over our playground on Wednesday, October 22. Tabitha does not have funds for us for the playground currently. A work order has been submitted for the screws to be covered on the playground.

I am using a calendar for snacks now.

The first aid bag is labeled.

The paint has been inspected and signed off in the binder.

After talking with office staff, we had all my student's forms sent back from when I requested them earlier this year. (They were in the school file.) I am only missing one physical, and one pick up request form. I am taking care of both currently.

I went to Drake Hardware on Tuesday to update my fingerprints. As stated above, you and Heather had been in touch about staff information. We will continue to update you on these.

Thank you!

Carrie Shride"

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

This program has no record of validated complaints. Further it has a history of excellent staff to child ratios, curriculum and supervision practices. The past several years violations have been low due to Director leadership.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant Nancy Granaman (Iowa Department of Public Health). Child Care Nurse Consultants work 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. It is recommended the program contact CCNC Granaman and request she conduct an Injury Prevention Checklist. CCNC Granaman visited the center in February 2024 and sends monthly emails.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Tabitha Copeland. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, IQ4K, child concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Consultant Copeland reached out to Director Shride after the visit on 10/13/25 regarding menu ideas relating to CACFP and offered support in other areas. She also provided the following the past year:

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3-24-25 Support for Ryan on renewing licensing and finding director that meets requirements to reopen
3-25-25 The program had shut down the 3's preschool due to not having a person who met the directors qualifications. I explained that the program would need to apply for a license and have a Director approved by HHS. I sent him the COMM 204 on directors requirements and info on licensing.
4-14-25 Ryan with licensing questions
5-15-25 Email from Heather Fischbach about director qualification and if she would meet. Support around the topic
5-29-25 on-site met Heather to support in iPower and meeting director qualifications. Explanation of HHS requirement and COMM 204
7-15-25 Email from Heather on new hire to be OSS and class lead. support around topic included qualification and iPower, trainings etc.
7-17-25 Program hired Lois Skuba to be lead for PreK and the OSS support around getting approved by HHS
8-4-25 Support on getting roles requested and iPower updated to support
8-14-25 on-site to go over site books, staff and child file requirements and general HHS requirements like ratios supervision etc. as they are different than schools. Support on finishing needed HHS trainings
8-20-25 Email from Heather on getting a copy of License as they cannot find. Sent contacts
8-27-25 support around EP plan and policies needed
9-4-25 Email from Ryan on Director and OSS needs and who would qualify/need to be designated what. COMM 204 and other support info given.

Date: 10/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.