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

Name of Center: The Bridge Preschool **Enrollment:** 72 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28303

Street: 10025 NW 62nd Ave **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 10025 NW 62nd Ave, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Tara Hartman **Phone Number:** 515-986-5867

On-Site Supervisor(s): Cheri Rissman **E-Mail:** tarahartman@thebridgejohnston.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-24-2024

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:** 03-05-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-23-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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.) X 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		17	46		63
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 05-05-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 4/13/23. The Director was present throughout the visit.

The Bridge Preschool has been in operation since the fall of 2006. This program provides early childhood education programming for children ages two to five. Tara Hartman became the director in June of 2019. Tara has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and worked at Meredith preschool for 7 years prior to becoming director as a preschool teacher. Tara meets qualifications to be the director. Cheri Rissman is the on site supervisor of the preschool. Cheri has been employed at the preschool since 2001. Cheri has an Elementary Education degree and meets qualifications for this role.

The program offers sessions for two year old children either on W/F or T/Th from 9:15am to 11:25 am. The three year old class is offered on either a Tuesday/Thursday schedule or a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule from 9:10 am to 11:40 am. The four year old class is offered on a schedule of Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am. The preschool is no longer offering afternoon sessions. They have adopted a gradual drop off and pick up schedule for the sessions of preschool offered.

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

Room Observations/Activities: This program uses three main classrooms and also has a large indoor play area. The preschool uses the creative curriculum for lesson planning and school status application to communicate with parents. Rooms were observed to be nicely organized and offering a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers/toys. Staff maintained good structure in the room; and the children would readily approach staff, receiving nurturing responses.

Nutrition Practices: This program runs in a short time and thus provides snack but not meals. There is a kitchen on site where snacks are stored. Menus for snack items are crafted by the director and are in-line with CACFP. Snacks are served in the classroom, family style.

Health/Safety: Emergency medication is kept secure in first aid back packs. Handwashing posters were hung in the restrooms. Fire/Tornado emergency exit plans/diagrams are posted. Radon was tested in 2021, results under 4.0 and due again in 2026. The church which houses this program manages the HVAC. There is a carbon monoxide detector in every classroom.

Playground: There is a green space that is enclosed by chain link. There is shade available from the play structures. Surfacing is grass.

Transportation/Field trips: NA

Administrative review: Fliers for mandatory reporter, handbook, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and no-smoking signs were posted. Five child files were reviewed and contained all required information. Three staff files were reviewed and contained all required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The programs QRS rating has expired and the director is working to apply for an IQ4K rating soon.

The center has developed an online enrollment process and also has an intent to enroll for parents wishing to enroll their child in the future.

The staff are trained and educated, they either have a teaching certificate or an Associates degree. The staff are professional and work well together. There is longevity of staff at the preschool.

Staff are flexible and supportive of each other, they lean on each other and recognize each other's strengths. Staff care about the children. Staff have shown strong resiliency during the pandemic, they are flexible in their schedules and dedicated to the children and the program.

The center is committed to providing quality programming to young children and getting them ready for kindergarten.

The center has a strong relationship with the church. The center and the church began conducting work groups which has lent to a stronger partnership and cohesiveness between the church and preschool. The preschool is an official ministry of the church.

The leadership team revised the coaching and evaluation process for staff performance evaluations which also allows for staff to complete a self-evaluation.

The center has a secure entrance.

The director conducts a weekly check in with staff, to go over any changes due to Covid-19 and just to check in and see how they are doing, and celebrate any good news. The director also meets with church staff weekly.

The teachers have created a shared document to help with dramatic play rotation through all three classrooms.

The director sent an outline of their accomplishments and goals:

Accomplishments:
? Selected as runner up Favorite Northwest Polk County Preschool by residents.
? Murals were painted on both sides of the outdoor play space to make it more inviting and celebrate our first director who passed and had donations given to the preschool.
? Purchased plates and cups for snack time so all items are durable to decrease waste.
? Teachers have reorganized and relabeled all books and dramatic play items for better sharing and donated items we do not use anymore.
? We had our first Christmas programs since Covid and they were very well attended.
? ClassTag is now being used for all communication with families. It has been a great addition to our program and keeps everything in one place.
? Building improvements
o New laminate flooring in the 4’s classroom - summer 2022
o Fence extension for outdoor play area - fall 2022
Goals:
? Application for IQ4K
? New cleaning process for end of the year
? Possibly change the preschool name to match the church name change
? Add to our current sub list by reaching out to former parents

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

There were not aspects of operation that fall below standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is now due every five years if the test is under the 4.0 cutoff. The last test was completed in July of 2021. Radon levels at that time were below the 4.0 cutoff.

This center offers classrooms with a variety of centers/toys along with teachers that maintained good structure while offering nurturing responses to the children.

*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.