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

**Name of Center:** Ames Christian School **Enrollment:** 34 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18060

**Street:** 925 S 16th St **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

**Mailing Address:** 925 S 16th St, Ames, IA, 50010

**Director's Name:** Amy Carlat **Phone Number:** 515-233-0772

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** NA **E-Mail:** office@ameschristianschool.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 11-02-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-02-2022

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

**Date Inspected:** 09-23-2021

**Comments :** Fire Inspections are due at least every three years, and the fire inspector is set to return 11/7/23.

**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 X 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 | | | 57 | 26 | 83 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-04-2023

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced off year annual visit was conducted 11-2-23. The director was present throughout the visit.

Ames Christian School offers a preschool program and a child care program, as well as before and after school programming for school age children. The preschool program has been in existence since at least 1999, and the child care program started in 2009. The school principal is Jill Wilson, the preschool director as of 2019 is Amy Carlat. Amy meets qualifications for this role. Amy has a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

The hours for the child care program are 7:00 am-5:30 pm. They also offer before and after school care to their elementary age students, starting and ending with these same hours as well. This is a school year only program.

Preschool sessions are either from 8:30-11:15 am, or noon-3:00 pm. The three year old children meet on T/Th mornings, or M/W mornings. The four year old children can either attend a three day session, a four day session or all five days. Children can attend all day programming with the warp around child care offered, so that children can attend their preschool session and then receive extended care at the school for the remainder at the day, both before and after the session.

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: Two adjoining rooms are used, for both preschool and at times, the extended child care. Both have a capacity for 24 children. Each room has a sink in the program area, and each room has a single stall bathroom with a sink in it. The cafeteria/multipurpose room is still used for before and after school programming and has a capacity for 26 children. The before and after school children also use the two preschool rooms at times, as well as the small library room. The preschool uses components of the Creative Curriculum and teachers write their own lesson plans and themes. There is a religious component to the curriculum as well. The program is not affiliated with a specific church in the community, however families have to be Christian to attend. The classrooms are well-stocked with a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys/activities. The teachers maintained a calm structure in the rooms. The staff were consistently observed to be engaged with the children on their level and to provide nurturing responses. There were handwashing signs and staff modeling proper handwashing technique.

Nutrition practices: AM/PM snack and lunch are provided. Lunches are provided by Ames Community School. Lunch and snacks are served in the classrooms family-style by staff. The menus rotate per the school district and are following CACFP guidelines. The center does have cold storage and some dry storage for snack items which was clean and well organized.

Health and Safety: Any medication is stored securely in the school office. Emergency medications would be stored securely and readily accessible. All medications were up-to-date. Handwashing signs are posted. First aide kits are in each classroom and there is an AED easily accessible. Tornado/Fire emergency plans are posted throughout the school and in the classrooms. Monthly checks are documented to have been completed monthly. Radon was sent for results 10/23 and the

director will send the results once received. Heating and Cooling is professionally inspected as arranged by the school. There is a carbon monoxide detector in the 3 year old classroom. This center and the school are very clean and nicely organized. Discussion took place with staff in the pre-k room and with the director as there was a sharp knife left unattended on the counter. When this was noticed, staff replaced it in a high cupboard preventing ready access by a child.

Playground: This playground is enclosed with wrought iron fencing and is separated by ages. There is a smaller play structure available for younger children. There is some small shade provided by the structure. Surfacing is cement; safety surfacing is rubber chips. Playground checks were documented to have been done monthly as required. The playground was in good condition.

Transportation: No transportation is provided.

Administrative Review: Information regarding Mandatory reporter, Handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and no-smoking signs are posted. Four Child files were reviewed which contained all required information; Two staff files were reviewed, one having documented submission of fingerprints but not the results and two that needed repeat employment physicals. This center has a well-established policy.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Parents have appreciated the addition of the child care program so they can drop off their preschool age and elementary age children in the mornings, and pick them up at the end of their work day. This process was observed to work well.

The program has good communication with parents.

There are conferences offered twice a year for the preschool children and families.

The staff work well together and staff morale is high.

The program has strong support from the school Principal and from the school. There is strong leadership for the program.

The center has a secure entrance.

The teachers sends out a weekly newsletter to parents.

Staff use walkie talkies to assist in communication and contacting each other.

The director stated additional strengths for the program for this past year are: My teachers are the strength and backbone of our program. Our program is growing. Our parents come alongside our teachers to form a strong partnership to enhance the growth and development of our students.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: 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.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 1

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing is due every two years. Radon testing results are pending and will be provided by the director.

The school arranges the annual furnace testing.

Discussion took place during the visits with staff in the pre-k room and with the director that a sharp knife used to prepare apples for snack had been left on the counter unattended for an unknown time; when this was noticed, the knife was replaced to a secure location.

*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.