

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

**Name of Center:** Asbury United Methodist Preschool **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18096

**Street:** 723 Bank St **City:** Webster City **Iowa** **Zip** 50595 **County:** Hamilton

**Mailing Address:** 723 Bank St, Webster City, IA, 50595

**Director's Name:** Brittney Clausen **Phone Number:** 515-832-5369

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** **E-Mail:** asburypreschool3@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 04-01-2024

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-19-2022

**Comments :** Notice was received from the Webster City Fire Department that the State Fire Marshal now does the fire inspection for this program. State inspection certificates are valid for 3 years from the date of issue.

**LICENSE TYPE:** **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

**Financial Type:** Profit X Non-Profit NA

**Accreditation:** Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

**Program Serves:** Infants (0-23 mo.) 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          |         |         | 20        |            | 20       |
| Summer           |         |         |           |            | 0        |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| <b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b> |                                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| X                                  | <b>FULL</b> license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026 |
|                                    | <b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from                   |
|                                    | <b>DENIAL</b> of initial application              |
|                                    | <b>SUSPENSION</b> of license                      |
|                                    | <b>REVOCATION</b> of license                      |

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 04-01-2024

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

NA

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

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Asbury United Methodist Preschool on 04-01-24 where I met with center director Brittney Clausen. Brittney took over as the director of this program in 2020. Brittney is well qualified for the position with a BA in general studies, and prior experience in early child care and education. The program is located in the lower level of the Asbury United Methodist Church and operated under a board of directors as a non-profit center. The program provides pre-school programming only in three sessions with two classes for 4 year old children, and one for 3 year old children though only the 3 year old program is operated under DHS licensing. The 4 year old program is operated in conjunction with the public school under the 4 Year Old Preschool Grant for which the school system provides the lead teacher. There are currently 18 children enrolled in the 3 year old program served by Brittney as the lead, and an assistant Teresa Gourley. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The design and layout of the center, and general operation of the program remains much the same as in prior visits. The program operates in a single classroom but also makes use of a large meeting room which is used as an indoor gym for large motor skill activities. Restrooms are located down the hallway from the classroom and children are escorted to the restroom as needed. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural light, ventilation, a view of the outdoors, and one is also a designated emergency exit. There is also a small pass-through kitchenette that provides secondary egress from the classroom into the meeting room used for large motor skill activities. All exits were maintained so that they were clear of obstruction. The room and building were observed to be clean and free of any safety concerns due to construction or maintenance. The room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, shelving, and play structure which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Activity centers include choices such as art/crafts, library, group learning, dramatic play, large and small manipulatives, and experience tables. Each center was well stocked with toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted, and a parent newsletter is also provided which identifies the planned curriculum. The curriculum theme on the day of my visit was caterpillars and butterflies. This was reflected in the activities, artwork, and materials in the classroom. As examples there were several books in the library center about that theme, the children did a craft/coloring project related to the theme, and the classroom has several caterpillars in jars which they are raising to watch the process of growth and metamorphosis. Good interactions were observed with the teachers being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned activities. Good behavior management practices were observed with the teachers using positive approaches such as recognition/praise of appropriate behaviors, routines, transition activities, and discussion of possible outcomes of different behaviors to help children understand the reasons for setting certain behavioral limits. Ratio was maintained with both Brittney and Teresa present, as well as the teacher for the 4 year old program who would be leading a class in the afternoon and was providing assistance in the room.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. When cleaning the teachers would wait for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, staff personal items, and other items that could be a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they are not accessible to children. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers escorting the children to restroom and ensuring that they not only washed their hands but did so in an effective manner. The teachers did talk to the children about issues such as how to reduce the

risk of disease transmission related to blowing or wiping their nose. A first aid kit is maintained in the classroom and does need to be restocked to ensure that items necessary to address most common first aid needs are present. Examples of missing elements included splints for large bones, bottled water, large pad bandages, roll bandages, and a sling. Due to the limited hours of operation medications are not routinely administered but policies are in place should it become necessary in the future. The center did have allergy plans, and other treatment plans for children with identified concerns.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The parents take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of appropriate snack options is provided. The center also maintains a list/menu of snacks that were provided. Snacks generally included options such as crackers, fresh fruit, cheese, yogurt, milk, and juice. Holiday and birthday celebrations were also documented for those days that non-credible items were provided as part of a celebration. A limited supply of snack items is maintained in the center to supplement as needed when this occurs. The snacks that were present were all prepackaged single serving items. The teachers do not eat with the children but do provide supervision at the tables.

The center does make use of a court yard area for outdoor play which is a grassy play space that has a sandbox and a shed where additional materials are stored. A climbing structure has been installed with unitary foam tiles used for fall surfacing. All equipment was observed to be in good repair. The playground is located next to an ally and privacy fencing has been installed to enclose the playground. As previously noted the center also has a large indoor area which can be used for large motor skill activities when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play. A variety of toys and non-climbing structures such as tricycles, stepping blocks, tumbling mats, and other options were present for the children to play with in that area on the day of the visit.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required elements. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Both staff files were reviewed and a renewed SING check, FBI background check, and Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter training is needed for Brittney. An updated FBI background check is also needed for Teresa. The center handbooks were previously reviewed and have been updated to include all required policies.

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

Brittney identified that the program has been very stable over the past couple of years with regard to enrollment and is already fully enrolled for the next two years. Brittney stated that as a result of this the program is exploring option to include a second class or session.

Brittney stated that the center has also been focusing on safety issues with the installation of the privacy fence for the playground, a security camera for the entrance door, and window coverings to restrict the view of individuals looking in on the program.

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

109.6(6)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.

-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.10(9): 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.

-- The first aid kit was depleted and needs to be restocked to ensure that materials necessary to address most common first aid needs are present.

### **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: An IDPH First Aid Checklist was sent to the center to assist in reviewing the materials and supplies of the first aid

kit.

\*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.