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

Name of Center: Wee Wisdom Preschool **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25039

Street: 3500 29th Ave **City:** Marion Iowa **Zip** 52302 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 3500 29th Ave, Marion, IA, 52302

Director's Name: Michelle Heidelbauer **Phone Number:** 319-350-7438

On-Site Supervisor(s): Michelle Heidelbauer **E-Mail:** weewisdom.lcr@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-16-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 04-18-2024

Comments :

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 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			18		18
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-03-2025

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Wee Wisdom Preschool is a nonprofit, Christian preschool sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The preschool is located inside the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Wee Wisdom Preschool operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:30am to 11:30am. The preschool offers programming to preschool-age children (age 3, 4, and 5-years-old). Current enrollment is 16.

Director of Wee Wisdom is Michelle Heidelbauer. Ms. Heidelbauer has been the director since 2010 (sole director vs co-director since fall, 2017). Ms. Heidelbauer has several years experience working with children and continues to participate in child development related training.

On 1/16/2025, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Wee Wisdom was established in 1948, and during 2025, will be celebrating the 77th year of providing a Christian preschool to the community. The longevity is celebratory! Wee Wisdom offers a 2-day and 3-day preschool program to preschool-age children and families in the community.

Wee Wisdom preschool has the following updated website for families and the community to learn about their program: https://lcrmarion.org/wee-wisdom-preschool.html.

Wee Wisdom preschool's focus is "…on the educational, social, physical, and spiritual development of every student...We believe young children learn best through play...As educators, we work hard to create an environment where every student feels free to explore, create and experiment."

Wee Wisdom has a history of participation in quality initiatives currently holding IQ4K 1-Star.

During the 2024-2025 preschool-year, Ms. Heidelbauer is celebrating her 14th year as director of Wee Wisdom. Congratulations! Ms. Heidelbauer has several years experience providing preschool learning and continues to participate in annual professional growth training. Ms. Heidelbauer has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are maintained as required. Assistant teacher Ms. Wittkop is celebrating her second school-year with Wee Wisdom. Ms. Heidelbauer and her assistant knowledgeabled being a "great team" both being familiar with licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Wee Wisdom is a nonprofit, Christian preschool sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and operates under a board. The preschool is located in a room of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Church administration and custodial staff help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard-free each day. There is an AED machine on-site. Building and grounds are well-maintained. Since the last monitoring visit, the outdoor space was updated with new loose fill and fence repairs. The preschool classroom was also renovated to include new flooring with fresh rugs as well as new built-in

cabinetry for storage of program materials. The preschool classroom has been re-arranged in a thoughtful manner keeping learning at the forefront. We Wisdom uses a play-to-learn curriculum incorporating many areas including but not limited to science units, literacy/phonics activities, the arts, math/STEM experiences, and social emotional components. Curriculum also includes on-site guest speaker events (e.g. musician, book readers), virtual field trips (e.g. yoga), and off-site field trip experiences including trips to the local fire station, local police department, and local nature center. Ms. Heidelbauer discussed increasing music with movement components to the curriculum with a goal of enhancing Bible-Christian based teachings.

Wee Wisdom continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Heidelbauer reported how the program's handbooks were reviewed and updated since the last review. Enrollment for the 2025-2026 preschool school-year is underway! Ms. Heidelbauer discussed future goals related to enrollment growth and possible open house for the community to see their newly renovated preschool classroom.

Wee Wisdom has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The preschool has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing as well as hand washing.

Upon arriving at the preschool, licensing observed staff and children deeply engaged in morning gathering discussion which included the day's events. Area of study "winter fun" and "polar animal habitats" were clearly visible throughout the preschool classroom. Center play experiences peeked child imagination with a small group polar bear fishing game, wooden nesting dolls, teacher created ice skating rink, hot chocolate shop, snowman stew, light table, snowflake punch outs, how-to-draw a penguin work, individual owl painting, snow sensory experience, and winter scene creating with blocks, trees, and polar animals During preschool play, inspiring classical music could be heard quietly playing. Experiences were innovative, observed to be greatly peaking child interest, and allowing for one-on-one work as well as small group social skills! Activities observed also included indoor large gross motor (e.g. walk around the church, waddle like a penguin, polar bear crawl, scarf dancing), book reading of "Polar Opposites" with engaging conversation as the story unfolded and a large group game identifying polar opposites. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were nurturing, attentive to the children's needs and encouraged social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day as evidenced by laughter and verbal exclamations of joy.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please ensure staff (NW) file has documentation of current first-aid and CPR.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.