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

Name of Center: Good Shepherd Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18088

Street: 1105 Washington St **City:** Eldora Iowa **Zip** 50627 **County:** Hardin

Mailing Address: 1105 Washington St, Eldora, IA, 50627

Director's Name: Karen Ritter **Phone Number:** 641-858-5928

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

Date(s) of Visit: 03-05-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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 X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 10-05-2023

Comments :

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.) 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			24		24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-13-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An announced annual visit was made to the Good Shepherd Preschool program on 03-05-24 where I met with center director Karen Ritter. Karen has been the director of the program since 1994 and is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor degree and Early Childhood Specialty Endorsement. Karen has two assistants, Christine Balvanz, and Elaine Manship. The program is located in a single classroom in the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora. The program is operated as a non-profit preschool overseen by a board of directors. The program provides pre-school programming only in three sessions with 2 morning 3 year old classes that meet two days a week, and an afternoon 4 year old class that meets four days a week. There are currently 30 children enrolled between the three sessions. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The structural and layout characteristics remain the same as in prior years. The classroom is located on a lower level of the church. There are several entrances to the room that lead to other spaces in the building and one providing direct secondary egress to the outdoors and playground. All exit doors opened easily and freely. There are two bathroom spaces located off the classroom space so that children do not need to leave the room. Sinks are located in the classroom space outside the restrooms. Windows are located along the upper level of the exterior wall and provide natural light, a limited view, and ventilation. The classroom and building were observed to be clean with no issues noted due to maintenance. The room is divided into activity centers through the use of low shelves, play structures, and furniture. The furnishing are arranged so that they do not create blind areas though there is one area between some taller shelving units that has reduced visibility that requires the teachers to be aware of how they position themselves to ensure supervision. Activity centers include group learning, dramatic play, library, art/crafts, blocks, large/small manipulatives, science/math, and sand/water play. The media center does have a TV on a wall mounted swing arm.

Each center was well stocked with age appropriate materials that were in good condition and readily accessible to the children. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. The planned curriculum had a general learning focus of "Community Helpers". Karen does rotate the materials to be reflective and supportive of the planned curriculum themes. This included postings of pictures of various professionals such as law enforcement, doctors, and fire fighters, materials in dramatic play that children could explore different job roles, and items in large manipulatives such as fire trucks. Good engagement was observed during the visit with all of the teachers being actively engaged with the children implementing the planned curriculum with a teacher lead group activity, and then moving to other self-directed play activities where the teachers were playing and talking with the children about what they were doing.

The center continues to follow the strong health and safety practices that they have utilized in the past. Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers directing the children to wash their hands prior to snack, after restroom use, and other times they became soiled. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting until the children had left the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. The center does have a first aid kit which was well stocked with materials to address most common first aid needs. The first aid kit, chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. While the center does not routinely administer medications policies and practices are in place to ensure that medications are properly labeled, stored, and documented when administered. The center did have emergency response plans for those children that had identified

allergies, or other health concerns.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The children take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of appropriate snack items is provided to parents. A copy of the snacks that are actually served is maintained. The program also maintains a small supply of snack items to supplement as needed and good food storage and handling practices are in place.

The center does have a playground space which is fully enclosed by fencing. The playground has a climbing structure and other toys for the children to play with. The climbing structure has two slide chutes extending off either end and it was noted that the chute that discharges to the West had a large crack in the plastic of the chute. While this did not appear to significantly impact the structural integrity and primary risk would be from abrasion this element of the structure should be cordoned off and not used. Rubber mulch is used for cushioning ground cover and a good depth of material was present. The center has also added foam mats in the high traffic areas to reduce the displacement of fall surfacing. There is a paved area for riding equipment and a grassy area where children can play. Shade is provided by the building, play structures, and large mature trees located outside the fenced play area.

All required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation and certifications though it was noted that the physical for Elaine was not on the required form. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information with the exception of 3 that did not have a physical. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has been in operation for several years with a very stable group of teachers and curriculum plan. This provides for a program where the teachers have attended many trainings and established a program that is highly effective in helping children develop school readiness skills. The teaches are also able to integrate into presenting the curriculum which allows others to work with children one on one as needed.

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 3

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The West facing discharge slide chute has a crack in the plastic and needs to be restricted from use until it is repaired or replaced.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan to correct and maintain those issued cited as not meeting licensing standards with an anticipated date of completion. At least one visit will be made to the center during the following year.

*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.