Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Central Preschool

Provider No.: 22860

Address: 601 Milwaukee ST STE 1, Charles City, IA, 50616

County: Floyd

Director's Name: Dusty Schmitt

On-Site Supervisor: Stacy Larson

Phone Number: 6412286803

E-Mail: centralpreschool3@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/22/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/11/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	36	0	36
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to Central Preschool in Charles City on 10-22-25 where I met with the center director, Dusty Schmitt. Dusty started with the program in August 2018 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and training. Stacy Larson is the co-teacher who joined the program at the start of the 2023 school year. The preschool is located in Trinity United Methodist Church in Charles City and is the oldest continuous preschool program in the state having opened in 1950. The program offers a formal 3 three old which is operated under DHHS oversight, and four-year-old preschool in partnership with the Charles City School System for the statewide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. There are 42 children enrolled in the program between the two classes served by 3 teachers and volunteer. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The preschool operates out of two rooms that are connected by a short pass-through where a toilet and sink are located. This pass through also serves as the secondary egress for each room. Additional sinks are available in each room to further facilitate hand washing. During the visit the water temperature was measured to be 122.3 deg. F which is slightly above the maximum allowable temperature of 120 deg. F. The water temperature should be adjusted to below 120 deg. and staff will need to monitor handwashing to ensure that the temperature is moderated by cold water. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural lighting, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Both rooms were observed to be clean with no concerns related to maintenance. The primary classroom is arranged with tables and activity centers that allow for small group, and individual play activities. The other room is more open and allows for more active teacher lead group activities such as music and movement. The arrangement of activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures is such that it does not create any blind areas in either room.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted and the teachers did implement both throughout the time of the visit. The center added the Haggarty curriculum in the previous year which has a focus on phonics to build reading, and combining grammar and writing instruction in addition to the other curriculum systems they are using. The curriculum plan identifies a general learning focus and specific learning concepts of numbers and letters. This was implemented with the teachers starting the class with small group teacher lead activities that provided practice in identifying the specific learning concepts by grouping stickers that used the identified letter sounds, and having the children count the number of sticker items they found. The class then transitioned to a teacher lead group learning activity, and the teacher reading a book. The center uses positive behavior management techniques that include routines reminders of expected behavior and rules, and recognition of positive behaviors. All of the teachers used

positive and encouraging words, and tones of voice when speaking to the children and interacted in an energetic manner. These approaches were very effective in that there were no behavioral problems observed and the children appear to have very positive relationships with the teachers.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. A good variety of snack options were present that generally consisted of prepackaged single serving options such as crackers. A record of snacks that were provided is maintained on a calendar and shows that the snacks provided were credible. Good food storage practices were observed. There is a refrigerator in the classroom for items that need to be kept cold and a thermometer was present.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers having children wash their hands upon arrival, and ensuring the children washed their hands as required after using the restroom, and at other times as needed. The teachers did monitor the hand washing to ensure that children washed their hands in an effective manner. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. When using cleaning products the teachers waited for the children to be out of the immediate area. Tables were sanitized before and after meals, and between programming sessions. First aid kits are maintained and contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Response plans were present for those children who had identified concerns such as allergies.

The center does have a playground area available which is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. The playground is an open grassy area. The climbing structure(s) that were present on the last visit had been removed leaving a variety of dramatic play structures, balls, and other equipment for the children to play with that are all ground based units that do not require fall surfacing. All equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Several mature trees around the exterior of the space provide shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, License Certificate, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted in an area readily available to parents. Other postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, hand washing, schedule, and curriculum were also present. All child files were reviewed and 7 were identified as needing a current physical. The center is currently using the Brightwheel application to maintain files and allow for communication with parents. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, 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: 7

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

The center has communicated with those families that still needed to provide a current physical and is working to obtain those.

5. 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 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.

Date: 11/06/2025

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.