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

Name of Center: Small World Preschool **Enrollment:** 26 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22893

Street: 3475 Kimball Ave **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 3475 Kimball Ave, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Erin McGrane **Phone Number:** 319-235-6808

On-Site Supervisor(s): Erin McGrane **E-Mail:** smallworldpreschool.em@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-20-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-18-2022

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	0	0	45	0	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 04-24-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/20/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Small World Preschool. I met with Erin McGrane, the director and the lead teacher in the Pre-K class. She has a BA in elementary education and has previously worked as a teacher with Head Start. Ms. McGrane is a NAEYC member. She has been with the program since 2007. Jenny Riordan is the lead teacher in the three and four-year-old classroom. She has a BA in early childhood education and unified special education. Emily Smalley and Carey Fry are the assistants in the classrooms. Ms. Smalley started with the program in January 2020 and Ms. Fry started with the program in February 2018.

Small World Preschool is in Central Christian Church. The preschool is an educational outreach program of the church. The Pre-K program operates Monday through Thursday from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm. The three and four-year-old program operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. They offer parents an early drop off at 7:45 am. There are currently 26 children enrolled.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, woodworking, math, science/discovery, playdough, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

There are two bathrooms located in the hallway. There is one for the boys and one for the girls. Each bathroom has a toilet and sink, and handwashing procedures were posted. There are other bathrooms located in the church that are accessible to the children.

The program can use the fellowship hall for gross motor activities when they are not able to go outside.

Snacks are furnished by the parents. Snacks are recorded on calendars. The preschool uses disposable products, so dishwashing is not necessary. The children eat in a snack room and in shifts. There were a couple different crackers that were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container. Family style is used. Allergies are confidentially posted.

The program is not currently a sanitizer to on the food tables. They were using a cleaner. You must sanitize the food tables before snack, between the two groups eating snack and after snack.

The preschool curriculum is based on Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) as set for by Creative Curriculum, the Iowa Early Learning Standards and the National Health and Safety Performance Standards for preschool. Activities are

planned around weekly studies. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plan. The children learn through play, and it is critical for learning to be fun, aka: Play with Purpose.

The parents receive a monthly calendar that includes the weekly studies and an overview of what the children will be learning and activities they will participate in. The Pre-K preschool class partners with the Waterloo Community School district to provide the state funded voluntary four-year-old preschool program. Ms. McGrane completes GOLD assessments on each child. The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4.

Emergency numbers are posted in the classrooms and staff members use their cell phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program. A daily schedule was posted, and a lesson plan was available for review in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway near the double doors across from the fellowship hall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/18/22.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. Community resources are in the entrance.

There is a fenced in playground for the children. There is a piece of climbing equipment with a slide and other activities. There are teeter totters, digging equipment, a merry-go-cycle and a playhouse. There are stationary toys to play on and picnic tables for the children. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning and there is also a grassy area for the children to play on. Trees provide shade.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. There was one file that did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There was one invalid immunization certificate. It was not signed and dated by medical personnel. There was one outdated physical. There was not a pattern of disregard with any of these items so these will not be cited.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have great teamwork with one another. They have a great routine for the children and transition between rooms with ease. Staff members were observed working one on one with children and assisting children with crafts. Staff members had fun learning activities for the children and included all the children in circle time. Staff members allowed the children to share stories and provided them with praise. They were enthusiastic and interacted with the children at their level. Staff members do fun experiments with the children to help them learn. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expires on 03/31/24.

The preschool is an educational outreach program of Central Christian Church.

Ms. McGrane states for their accomplishments they have fixed the playground fence, they have added more monthly STEM opportunities and they changed the hours of operation for the PreK preschool class, which added additional time to class each month.

The program is partnering with the Waterloo School District to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

Ms. McGrane states they offer family events such as Donuts with Dads in April and Muffins with Moms in May.

Ms. McGrane states the program offers small class sizes. They meet the children where they are in their education, and they can have more one-on-one interaction with the children.

Ms. McGrane states they have good communication with parents. Each month they send home a newsletter and each month they send home a binder with the children's work. Each Sunday she emails the parents the learning lesson for the week.

Centers were arranged and set up to coincide with the current theme.

The teachers use several visual cues in the classrooms to assist in educating the children. They are creative in their lessons and use repetition as a teaching method.

The program's hallways are decorated with the children's artwork, which makes if friendly and inviting.

The program utilizes Central Rivers AEA for children with identified special needs.

Ms. McGrane states for goals they plan to start the IQ4K process, they would like to extend the PreK program, they want to attend more math and literacy trainings and they want to step up the STEM projects done in the classroom.

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

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 program is not currently a sanitizer to on the food tables. They were using a cleaner. You must sanitize the food tables before snack, between the two groups eating snack and after snack.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.