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

Name of Center: Central Preschool **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22860

Street: 601 Milwaukee ST STE 1 **City:** Charles City Iowa **Zip** 50616 **County:** Floyd

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

Director's Name: Dusty Schmitt **Phone Number:** 641-228-6803

On-Site Supervisor(s): Stacy Larson **E-Mail:** centralpreschool3@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-16-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-11-2024

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	0	0	36	0	36
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-28-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Central Preschool in Charles City on 10-16-24 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 assistant 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. The program offers a formal 3 three old, and four-year-old preschool in partnership with the Charles City School System for the statewide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. There are 37 children enrolled in the program between the two classes served by 4 teachers. 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. 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.

Available activity centers include art/crafts, reading, math/science, large/small manipulatives, dramatic play, media, and group learning. Each center had a good supply of materials that were observed to be in good condition and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. The curriculum focus was a general theme related to Fall & Halloween. Dusty did identify that the center has added the Haggarty curriculum 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. Good interactions were observed with both teachers being actively engaged with the children implementing the planned curriculum. This included the teachers playing with the children and talking with them during self-directed center play, moving to large group teacher lead instruction, and small group activities. The center uses positive behavior management techniques that include redirection, reminders of expected behavior and rules, and recognition of positive behaviors. Both teachers used positive and encouraging words, and tones of voice when speaking to the children.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Snacks are furnished by parents based on a list of snacks options provided to parents that meet the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines. A record of snacks that were provided is maintained on a calendar. A limited number of snack options are maintained at the center to supplement as needed if snacks provided would not be considered credible. There is a refrigerator in the classroom for items that need to be kept cold and a thermometer was present. Good food storage and handling practices were observed with all food items being properly stored. The snack provided on the day of my visit included a banana, orange, and milk. The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision and assistance at the tables.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with

the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as required, after using the restroom, and at other times as needed, and that they did so 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. 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 and a small toddler slide was added since the last visit. The slide is a small residential grade free standing plastic structure with a vertical height of no more than 18 inches. The slide unit is not anchored, was observed to be structurally unstable, and had no fall surfacing. This structure does need to be removed. There are 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 other equipment was observed to be in good repair though some items were nearing the end of their useful life. Several mature trees around the exterior of the space provide shade.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily available to parents. All child files were reviewed and 5 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 3 were found to need an updated Iowa SING record check one was for a substitute teacher. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has continued to look to maintain a strong curriculum focus with seeking formal data driven curriculum programs that can be implemented to assist children in improving their learning.

The center has seen a high degree of stability over the past year with an increase in enrollment with many of the children who had attended as 3 year olds returning for the 4 year old 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: 3

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: 5

109.11(3)a Center shall ensure that: (1) Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. (2) Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. (3) Sufficient space provided for dining. (4) Sufficient lighting shall be provided. (5) Sufficient ventilation. (6) Sufficient heating. (7) Sufficient cooling. (8) Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. (9) Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. (10) 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 outdoor playground has a small residential grade slide structure which is not anchored, and has no fall surfacing. The unit was observed to be structurally unstable and use shall be restricted until such time that sufficient fall surfacing and fall zones as required by the CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf) are installed.

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: 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.