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

Name of Center: Wee Ones Christian Preschool **Enrollment:** 14 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22852

Street: 420 1st Ave NE **City:** Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50441 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: PO Box 236, Hampton, IA, 50441

Director's Name: Mary Mollenbeck **Phone Number:** 641-456-8471

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

Date(s) of Visit: 04-02-2025

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

Date Inspected: 01-12-2023

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			14		14
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2025 to 05-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-08-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Wee Ones Christian Preschool on 04-02-25 where I met with center director Mary Mollenbeck. Mary became the director beginning the 2020-2021 school year and is well qualified for the position having a BA, and prior experience in Early Childhood Education. The program is located in a single classroom at the Church Of The Living Word which used to be an elementary school in Hampton. The program is overseen by a board comprised of members of the host church. The program provides preschool programming only providing only one session on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 3 year old children. There are currently 14 children enrolled in the program served by Mary as the lead teacher, and two assistant teachers, Elisa VanWest, and Sandy Aaron. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The layout of the building and classroom, and the overall programming remain the same as in prior visits. The room was observed to be clean with no immediate concerns noted with regard to maintenance. Windows are located along the exterior wall providing natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and also serve as secondary emergency egress. Restrooms are located off the main corridor and children are escorted to the restroom as needed. The classroom is a large open space that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement is such that it provides the children with ample room to move and play without creating any blind areas. Each center was well stocked with materials and toys that are appropriate to the ages of the children, and were observed to be in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. The program uses a curriculum that has a general learning focus, paired with specific number, letter, shape, color learning concepts, and also includes a faith based component.

The program was just beginning for the day when I arrived and the center does follow good health procedures with the teachers greeting each child both as a way to welcome them to the program, but also to speak with parents about how the children were doing to assess for any concerns. Children were escorted to the restrooms which also allowed for staff to ensure that the children washed their hands. The teachers did follow the planned schedule and curriculum with engaging in a coloring group welcoming activity, and then small group teacher lead activities. All of the teachers were actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum and had a very strong focus on developing school readiness skills. As an example during the welcoming coloring activity Mary was working with children on their holding of the crayon as a means to develop good pencil grasp skills for writing. Given the smaller size of the class and the presence of three teachers it does allow for a very proactive approach to addressing behavioral issues where a teacher can work more individually or with pairs of children to redirect the child(ren) or assist with problem solving.

A first aid kit is maintained to have a good supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using cleaning products, and cleaning tables after being used for activities. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children. The program does not provide meals due to the limited time frames that the children are present but snacks are provided and a menu is posted. Good food storage practices were observed with all foods properly stored in an air tight sealable food grade container as required once the original packaging seal had been broken.

The outdoor playground makes use of a manufactured woodchip product for fall surfacing which also meets ADA compliance requirements for handicapped accessibility. The wood chips have begun to compact and displace in heavy use areas such as entrances/discharge to slides, and kick zones of the swings. Mary did confirm that the church has been made aware of the need for additional material but has not yet added any. The issues regarding the fall zones for the swings being insufficient in the backswing continues to be present. The equipment was observered to be in good repair. Other areas available to the children include a large open field and a paved basketball court where the children can play outdoors. An indoor gymnasium is also available where they can play when the weather is not conducive to playing outdoors. Mature trees are present on the outdoor playground space to provide shade.

All required notices were posted in an area readily visible and accessible to parents. All staff and child files were reviewed. In reviewing child files all contained current enrollment information but 2 did not have a copy of a physical, and while a third had a copy of a physical that had expired just prior to enrollment and had a note about a scheduled appointment a copy of that updated physical had not been provided. In reviewing staff files for Mary, Elisa, and Sandy all needed to be updated for a current background check, and Elisa also needed a a copy of a current physical. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates a copy of Radon testing could not be located. The center did have evacuation drill logs for both fire and tornado but several months were not recorded and while Mary did acknowledge that drills had not been done in February 2025, all others that were missing had been. It was reviewed that the drills must be documented or it is assumed they were not completed. Mary also acknowledged that playground inspections had not been completed for the current school year. Again as a reminder these are required to be completed each month.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations

This program continues to be very stable not only with regard to the teachers that have been with the program for the past couple of years, but also in terms of child enrollment, and programming.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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: 2

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Drills not conducted for the month of February, and not documented through reported to have occurred for several other months.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
-- Documentation/inspections not completed.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Documentation not available on the day of the visit.

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 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: Confirmation of renewed Iowa SING background checks to be provided to the Licensing Consultant by 04-11-25. Notice was received that the staff needing the updated physical had scheduled an appointment, and the property owner has obtained a radon testing kit and would conduct renewed testing.

*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.