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

Name of Center: Washington Charlie Brown PS and CC **Enrollment:** 150 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 37114

Street: 700 N Washington Ave **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 700 N Washington Ave, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Ashley Larsen **Phone Number:** 641-423-6029

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristi Peterson **E-Mail:** washingtoncb@charliebrownpreschools.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-31-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 10-11-2021

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	40	28	47	52	167
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-01-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Washington Charlie Brown center on 07-31-24 where I met with center director Kristi Peterson. Kristi is well qualified for the position having extensive experience with working in early childhood care. The program is located in the old Washington elementary school building in Mason City. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors as part of a group of daycare centers in the area with Ashley Larsen as the Executive Director. The center provides preschool and daycare programming to infants through school age children. There are approximately 150 children enrolled in the program served by 25 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms remain the same as in prior reports. Classrooms are determined by age with infants divided into 3 rooms determined by age and developmental level. All class rooms were observed to be clean. The center did have a significant maintenance issue associated with roof leaks. The center did have several suspended ceiling tiles that were missing, and others that had water damage and appeared to be developing some mold. Containers were present in the main corridor to capture water. Kristi did confirm that the center has purchased materials and contacted a contractor to make repairs to the roof but it would take 3 weeks for the materials to arrive. It was reviewed that the center does need to remove water catchment containers when there is no active leaking, and empty them regularly when there is. The infant rooms have secondary entrances that provide direct egress to the outdoors, as does the Woodstock room which serves the 4-5 year old children. All emergency exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and in the older age classrooms serve as secondary egress. Each classroom has sinks in the room to allow for hand washing. Each room with the exception of the school age room has toilets available in the classrooms so that children do not need to leave the room. Additional toilets are located off the main hallway, and directly across the hall from the school age classroom. Classrooms serving younger children also have changing stations present. Each room is divided into activity centers through the use of furniture, shelves, and play structures. The arrangement is such that it does not create any blind areas in any of the rooms.

As with the general layout and design of the building the classroom arrangements also remain much the same as in prior reports. The available activity centers vary by age and developmental level with all rooms having options such as large/small manipulatives, library, and art/crafts. As the ages and developmental levels increase other options such as math/science, dramatic play, table games, and group learning are present. Each room had a good variety of toys and materials that were in good repair and generally appropriate to the ages of the children present however some toys in younger classrooms needed to be removed. Small items and toys with small parts that can break off which are less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 in length are considered choking hazards for children under 3 years of age and need to be removed from the classrooms. For children 3-4 years of age that may still be prone to mouthing items these should be stored in an area where they can be brought out for supervised play. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted in each room and each room develops their own curriculum plan. The staff in each classroom were actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs and implementing the planned curriculum. As an example the center was engaging in Water Play and each classroom did cycle through their schedule to provide time where they children could go outside and play. This was then coupled with other activities such as one of the toddler rooms doing a group story reading,

and the school age children engaging in self-directed center play. The center uses positive behavior management techniques to encourage and reinforce positive behavior choices. This included the use of routines, reminders, recognizing positive behaviors with praise, and redirecting children. When speaking to the children all staff were observed to use calm tones, and supportive word choices.

During the visit one issue that was noted that the school age children were allowed to leave the classroom to use the restroom unescorted and at times when staff would not have had direct line of sight. While the children are of an age that they could reasonably use the restroom on their own staff do need to provide supervision that they can observe children to ensure their care needs are met. This would include any assistance in toileting, being able to address any behavioral concerns, and reducing the risk of children eloping from the center.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the time of my visit. Proper diaper changing procedures were observed in all classrooms where children need assistance with diapering. It was noted that some of the changing pads did have worn or torn waterproof covers that exposed the foam core such that they would not be able to be properly cleaned and disinfected. These do need to be replaced and it was reported that new changing pads have been ordered. All over the counter medications were properly labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. The center uses a variety of cleaning and disinfecting agents depending on the intended use and type of surface being cleaned and the staff did follow the label directions for each item. Chemical cleaners, medications, purses, and other items that could present a health or safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. The center has a primary first aid kit but smaller travel first aid bags are kept in each classroom. The center does have children with identified allergies and response plans were present in the children's files. In addition the center did have postings in the classrooms identifying children with allergies, intolerances, and preferences to further help staff ensure that they are implementing plans for those children that need accomodation. Good hand washing and other hygiene practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as required. Good safe sleep practices were observed for children under 1 year of age.

The center has several playground areas with one for the toddlers, one for the preschool and school age children, and a third playground area is available on the facility property which would be more appropriate for older school age children. The preschool playground has an arched wall climbing structure, experience tables, and a large awning shade cover. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing for that area. The toddler playground completed renovations with removing a retaining wall and installing fencing and a paved area. That playground does have some smaller climbing structures, and bucket swings. A stabilized rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing. It was noted that the S hooks used to attached the swing seats to the chains do need to be closed more so that the gap between the ends and the barrel of the hook is less than 1.5mm or about the thickness of a dime. The third playground space has several climbing structures which were observed to have some wear but were sound with no damage noted. The "Red" climbing structure did have a slide chute exiting to the East which did have a couple of the connecting bolts attaching the chute to the platform that had backed out and need to be reseated. Wood mulch is used for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present. Shade is provided by a number of mature trees. There are also large open grassy areas, and paved areas where the children can play.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The kitchen was generally observed to be clean with good food storage and handling practices in place. One issue that was noted was a refrigeration unit that had a temperature reading of 45 deg. F but it was reported it had been opened recently with lunch preparation. While that could account for the elevated temperature at that time the temperature log did note a number of days over the past month where the temperature was recorded to be 50 deg. F. It was reviewed that cold holding temperatures should be maintained between 32 - 40 deg. F. with a maximum upper limit of 42 deg. F and the center either needed to adjust or replace the unit and should dispose of the food items that were present. It was also observed that a couple of bags of bulk items had been rolled closed in the infant room and it was reviewed that these must be placed in air tight sealable food containers. A copy of the pre-planned menu is posted and identifies a good variety of nutritious meal options. Meals are served in the classrooms and the teachers were observed to use food service gloves and measured scoops when plating food. The teachers do sit and eat with the children to provide supervision at the table and model good eating habits.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A review of child and staff files was conducted. A random sample of both child and files were selected for review and all reviewed files were found to contain all required documentation. The center policy handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies. All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This continues to be a very strong program with a high degree of stability in both child enrollment and staff retention. This allows for the center to maintain consistency, and for staff to have more training and develop stronger relationships with the children.

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

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- All food items were not properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers labeled with the contents and date placed in storage once the original packaging seal had been broken. One refrigeration unit identified consistent temperature measurements of 50 deg. F. over the past month. The maximum allowable temperature for safe refrigeration is 42 deg. F.

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: 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.