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

Name of Center: Ankeny Prep Preschool **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51927

Street: 602 SE Delaware Ave **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1917 NE Lancaster Dr, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Sue Neumann **Phone Number:** 515-480-2500

On-Site Supervisor(s): Whitney Neumann **E-Mail:** preppreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-23-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-08-2022

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

Date Inspected: 09-12-2023

Comments : Fire inspections due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-23-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 1-23-24. The co-director, Wendy, was present through the entire visit.

This preschool was given permission to open on 9/6/22. This preschool has been in existence for many years. The previous owners of 9 years sold the business to Sue and Whitney Neumann in 2022. Prior to the previous owners, this preschool was open under different ownership since 1998. Sue Neumann is listed as the director and Whitney is listed as the assistant director (On-Site Supervisor); they are mother and daughter. The intent is to list both as co-directors. Sue has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and seven years of experience as a preschool director, as well as 15 years of teaching experience. Whitney has both a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She has twelve years of teaching experience. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

Preschool is held MWF from 9:00-noon for the Pre-Kindergarten (4-5) year old children. The three year old children meet on T/TH 9:00-11:30 am. This is a school year only program.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations/activities: This preschool meets in the Fellowship Hall in the United Church of Christ. The preschool rents the space from the church. There is no affiliation or financial support from the church to the preschool. When the preschool is in session the church doors are locked. The Fellowship Hall is a very large and open classroom. There is a sink in the room, and the kitchen area is connected to the Fellowship Hall. The bathrooms are just down the hallway in the main part of the church. Staff always accompany the children when they go to the bathroom. The program can also use the Sanctuary for large motor play or individual groups. There is green space by the church that can be used for outdoor time, as well as a city park right next to the church that can be used for outdoor play.

The program uses their own curriculum, based on the combined knowledge of the owners and staff. They pull from the Handwriting without Tears and Hagerty Curriculum. Weekly themes and lesson plans are created. They communicate with the Ankeny School District to see what children need to start Kindergarten.

Nutrition: Healthy Snacks are provided by a parent for the group; which is shared family style in the classroom. Adjustments are made for children that present with allergies.

Health and safety: Medications are readily accessible to staff and stored securely. There is a mini first aid kit and a disaster first aid kit also present. Tornado and Fire exit plans are posted and drills were documented to have been completed monthly. HVAC is maintained by the church. There was a CO2 detector in the kitchen closet area.

Playground--there is a green space for play adjacent outside the classroom and nearby park. Playground checks were completed.

Transportation/Field Trips: No transportation is provided; parents provide transportation for field trips.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking signs were posted. This center has an established policy. Three staff files and three child files were reviewed and contained all necessary information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool has a strong partnership with the church.

Sue, Whitney and the other teacher at the preschool are all certified and licensed teachers with several years of combined experience in elementary and preschool education. They love children and strive to make learning fun, while also meeting the needs of the children and looking at the whole child.

The classroom is welcoming and spacious. The classroom was painted prior to opening.

There is strong communication with the parents. Newsletters are sent out to parents on a monthly basis.

The preschool has a public and a private Facebook page. Pictures and blurbs about the day are posted on the private Facebook page.

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

There were not aspects of operation that fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed 6/2/23 and all tested below 4.0, and is due again in five years.

The children/parents take turns providing daily snacks and the preschool provides the milk.

The church inspects the furnace annually.

There was good structure maintained while group activities took place with good participation by the children. The children were content and observed to seek out staff when needed, and staff providing nurturing responses.

*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.