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

Name of Center: Trinity Preschool & Childcare **Enrollment:** 62 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21504

Street: 4535 Kimball AVE **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50701 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 4535 Kimball AVE, Waterloo, IA, 50701

Director's Name: Carrie Nieman **Phone Number:** 319-883-3501

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kayla Ventura **E-Mail:** carrienieman@trinityepiscopalwaterloo.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-08-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 10-30-2024

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	21	14	30	15	80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 08-06-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/08/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Trinity Preschool and Childcare in Waterloo. I met with Carrie Nieman, the director of the center. Ms. Nieman has an AAS in early childhood development and a BA in early childhood education. She has been working with the center since May 2006 and became the director in May 2011. Ms. Nieman is a NAEYC member and IAAEYC member. She has completed NAC training. Kayla Ventura is the on-site supervisor. She started with the center in February 2020. She has an AA in child development. There are 19 staff members employed by the center.

Trinity Preschool and Childcare opened in September 2006 and is in the education wing of Trinity Episcopal Church. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves infants through school-aged children. The center offers a preschool program during the school year for two-year-old, three-year-old and for four and five-year-old children. The core preschool class operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until noon. Parents have the option of choosing the three- or five-day preschool class. There are currently 62 children enrolled.

The program operates out of the following classrooms: Caterpillars (infants), Butterflies (12-24 months), Fireflies (two-year-olds), Bumble Bees (three-year-olds), Lady Bugs (four and five-year), and school-aged rooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with 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 are posted. There is an area for circle time in the classrooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, play dough, 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 are easily accessible to the children.

In the school-age classroom and Bumble Bee's classroom the staff purses were within reach of children. All personal items must be kept out of the reach of children.

Creative Curriculum is primarily followed to create lesson plans in all rooms. Ms. Nieman also uses Handwriting Without Tears and Jolly Phonics in the four and five-year-old preschool room and teaches phonic units. The center starts portfolios on all children and the portfolios follow them through four and five-year-old preschool. They complete assessments and objectives for each child. They do this twice each year to document the growth. They also have conferences with the parents twice each year. They complete social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, the Arts and English Language Learners assessments. The program has a center-wide theme, and each teacher creates their own lesson plan. They incorporate a Christian based curriculum into the lesson plans and participate in faith-based activities. Lesson plans were available for review.

Cribs are used in the infant room and cots are used in the other rooms for naps.

The Caterpillar and Butterflies rooms are using the Brightwheel app to complete daily sheets. The child's mood is documented under the notes section in the app. All the rooms use Brightwheel to communicate with parents daily. Each room can send the parents photos and videos.

There is a phone in each of the classrooms and emergency numbers with the center's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted 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 July 2024 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. An inspection of fuel-burning appliances is not necessary because everything in the program is electric. A carbon monoxide detector is not necessary because no gas appliances are used. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/30/24.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Michaela Bush is the cook. The center uses a four week rotation of menus. Infants and toddlers eat everything in their rooms. Children aged two through school-age eat breakfast and lunch in the dining area and eat snacks in their classrooms. Family style is used for children ages three and older. Menus and allergies were posted.

The kitchen was clean and organized. There is an industrial refrigerator and an industrial freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Dishes are put through an industrial dishwasher. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There are four sinks available in the kitchen to use the three-step method and there is a handwashing sink.

The center provides cereal and baby food for the infants. Parents provide the formula. Bottles are prepared in the room and are washed in the room using the three-step method. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing tables. I observed and discussed diaper changes and proper procedures are followed in most rooms. The children's hands are not being washed with soap and water following diaper change in the infant room. This must always occur. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted as mandated.

The center has a fenced in outdoor play area that is divided into two spaces. One is for the younger children and one for the older children. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning in both areas. There is also a grassy area in both locations.

The area for younger children has small slides, a caterpillar tunnel, a sandbox, a water wall, basketball hoop, playhouses, dramatic play equipment and riding toys with a concrete riding path for the children.

The area for the older children has climbing equipment that offers slides and other activities. There is also a small climbing wall, a water wall, soccer nets, playhouses, teeter totter, basketball hoop and a sandbox. There is a storage container that holds balls, trucks, and pails. There is a concrete riding path for riding toys.

There is also a large grassy area outside of the fence that can be used. There are trees outside the fence that provide shade during certain times of the day and a tree has been planted inside the play area. A pergola shade structure is in the larger area. A garden box is also in the area.

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.

I observed the staff members to be attentive and actively engaged with the children. There was child friendly music playing in the rooms. Staff members sat on the floor with the children as they played and introduced them to activities. They were engaged in conversation with the children and used play to teach the children about colors and counting. Staff members modeled good manners. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members displayed good teamwork and provided the children with a good routine. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Nieman states the center has a low turnover rate with the children. Families stay for the "long haul".

Ms. Nieman states they have students from the Hawkeye Community College field experience program. Ms. Nieman is a member of the Hawkeye Community College Early Childhood Advisory Board. It is a great working relationship.

Ms. Nieman states the center partners with the Waterloo Schools Career Center's Early Childhood Education program to have students from the fall and spring semesters observe in the classrooms and help in the classrooms.

The center has teachers who utilize the WAGES program.

Both preschool classrooms have participated in the STEM Waterworks class and the STEM All About Balance class and they received materials for the classroom.

The center recognizes the needs of individual children and seeks aid from Central Rivers AEA and families to ensure early intervention with needs like speech.

The center promotes strong literacy backgrounds.

The center is in a secure building.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. 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.