Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Small World Preschool

Provider No.: 22893

Address: 3475 Kimball Ave, Waterloo, IA, 50702

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Erin McGrane

On-Site Supervisor: Erin McGrane

Phone Number: 3192356808

E-Mail: smallworldpreschool.em@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 04/08/2026

Licensing Period: 05/01/2025 to 05/01/2027

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 09/02/2025

Comments:

**Report Visit Type:**

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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| HOURS: | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | | 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM | |
| Tuesday | | 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM | |
| Wednesday | | 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM | |
| Thursday | | 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM | |
| Friday | | | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 0 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

On 04/08/26 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Small World Preschool. I met with Erin McGrane, the director and the lead teacher in the Pre-K class. She has a BA in elementary education and has previously worked as a teacher with Head Start. Ms. McGrane is a NAEYC member. She has been with the program since 2007. Jenny Riordan is the lead teacher in the three and four-year-old classroom. She has been with the program since August 2013 and has a BA in early childhood education and unified special education. Emily Smalley is the assistant teacher in Ms. Riordan's room. Ms. Smalley started in January 2020 and has a BS in nursing. Kellie Nash is the assistant in Ms. McGrane's room. She started in August 2024 and has a BS degree.

Small World Preschool is in Central Christian Church. The preschool is an educational outreach program of the church. The Pre-K program operates Monday through Thursday from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm. The three and four-year-old program operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. They offer parents an early drop off at 7:45 am. There are currently 24 children enrolled.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, 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 were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, woodworking, math, science/discovery, playdough, 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.

There are two bathrooms located in the hallway. There is one for the boys and one for the girls. Each bathroom has a toilet and sink, and handwashing procedures were posted. There are other bathrooms located in the church that are accessible to the children if necessary.

The program can use the fellowship hall for gross motor activities when they are not able to go outside.

Snacks are furnished by the parents. Snacks are recorded on calendars. The preschool uses disposable products, so dishwashing is not necessary. The children eat in a snack room and in shifts. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Family style is used. Allergies are confidentially posted.

The program is using Clorox Multi-Surface Cleaner to clean the snack tables and Clorox Disinfecting Mist to sanitize the tables. This product has a one minute dwell time.

The preschool curriculum is based on Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) as set for by Creative Curriculum, the Iowa Early Learning Standards and the National Health and Safety Performance Standards for preschool. Activities are planned around weekly studies. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plan. The children learn through play, and it is critical for learning to be fun, aka: Play with Purpose.

The parents receive a monthly calendar that includes the weekly studies and an overview of what the children will be learning and activities they will participate in. The Pre-K preschool class partners with the Waterloo Community School district to provide the state funded voluntary four-year-old preschool program. Ms. McGrane completes GOLD assessments and Brigance screenings on each child. The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number are posted in the classrooms and staff members use their cell phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program. A daily schedule was posted, and a lesson plan was available for review 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 April 2023 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway near the double doors across from the fellowship hall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/02/25.

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. Community resources are at the entrance.

There is a fenced-in playground for the children. There is a piece of climbing equipment with a slide and other activities. There are teeter totters, digging equipment, a merry-go-cycle and a playhouse. There are stationary toys to play on and picnic tables for the children. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning and there is also a grassy area for the children to play on. Trees provide shade.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children in each room. They made the learning environment fun and inviting. Staff members are enthusiastic and it came across in how they taught and interacted with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles within the classrooms and know what to expect from one another. Staff members provided easy to understand and clear directions for the children. They provided the children with praise and a calm environment and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members change out centers routinely so that children do not get bored. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

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Ms. McGrane states they regularly do a good job communicating with families.

Ms. McGrane states they individualize the education of the children and the teachers meet the children where they are at.

Ms. McGrane states they regularly take pictures of the children in their activities.

Ms. McGrane states they keep things fresh and new for the children to peak their interests.

Ms. McGrane states the parents are happy with their program. They receive referrals for their program mostly through word of mouth referrals.

Traveling Tales visits the preschool once each month. They also have professionals visit the program throughout the year, such as the fire department, a veterinarian, and a dental person.

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 06/30/26. They are reapplying for a level 3.

The program has two staff members who use the WAGES program. No one is using the TEACH program.

The preschool is an educational outreach program of Central Christian Church.

The program is partnering with the Waterloo School District to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

Ms. McGrane states they offer family events such as Donuts with Dads in April and Muffins with Moms in May.

The teachers use several visual cues in the classrooms to assist in educating the children. They are creative in their lessons and use repetition as a teaching method.

The program's hallways are decorated with the children's artwork, which makes if friendly and inviting.

The program conducts parent surveys each year. They have conferences with parents twice each year.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

N/A

**4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance**

N/A

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. McGrane, the director, the oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. McGrane states children's behaviors have not been a problem. She states members take trainings on children's behaviors and they work with AEA when necessary. She states she monitors the situation by being present. She states if she sees frustration she will tell staff members to breathe and take a break. She states she tries to get them in a different mindset and they use humor.

Date: 04/28/2026

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.