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

Name of Center: E.L.M. Street Preschool **Enrollment:** 34 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28423

Street: 319 W Elm St **City:** Ogden Iowa **Zip** 50212 **County:** Boone

Mailing Address: 319 W Elm St, Ogden, IA, 50212

Director's Name: Amanda Stephens **Phone Number:** 515-275-3249

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** ZionELMStreetPreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-01-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-24-2025

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

Date Inspected: 09-12-2024

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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	0	0	32	0	32
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-01-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 4/1/25. The director was present for the duration of this visit as was a substitute.

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

ELM St. Preschool opened in 2000 and is primarily located in a classroom in the upper level of the Zion Lutheran Church in Ogden, IA. The preschool is overseen by a Board. The director of the preschool as of 5/2021 is Amanda Stephens. Amanda has a BS degree and a Master's degree in child related fields. Amanda also has past experience working with children in a school setting.

The preschool uses the Creative Learning Curriculum and Science of Reading Curriculum for their three, four, and five year old children. Children attend Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from either 8:30am-11:05am or 12:20pm - 2:50pm. There are not any classes on Wednesdays.

During the visit, children were observed cleaning up their play stations and then getting ready to do a large group learning and physical activity together (yoga) with staff. Children discussed hand washing protocols with this consultant.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool has a good working relationship with the church overall.

The program has good partnerships with other community businesses.

There is a secure entrance to get into the upstairs preschool area.

The preschool participates in QPPS and IQ4K. IQ4K is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The preschool uses an electronic app to communicate with parents during the day (Brightwheel in near future).

A weekly newsletter is sent out to parents which also includes the food menu for the week.

Enrollment remains steady and there is again a waiting list for enrollment for next year.

Classroom pictures and art work are posted.

Good child-staff interactions were observed. There were lots of activities to keep children's interested.

The director of this program is organized and detailed.

Home visits are done before the start of every school year as well as an open house visit to the program.

The Board is very involved with the program and supportive.

Within the past year, interior painting has been done and the program purchased a newer and bigger refrigerator as well as a projector screen.

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

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1 child had a recently expired physical in their file and was now past due for a new physical.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 3/11/24 - 3/14/24. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because radon levels were below 4.0, the center doesn't have to test again until five years from the 3/2024 testing. If testing in 3/2029 comes back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to do a long-term test and go back to testing every two years at least temporarily.

The annual boiler inspection on file expires 2/28/2026.

It was previously noted that the center takes walking field trips to the surrounding area and will also invite agencies into the center for presentations.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. Staff should upload their training certificates if not automatically uploaded.

The CACFP phone app was again shared during the visit. This can also be shared with parents.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.