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

Name of Center: Nisse Preschool and Kids Place **Enrollment:** 38 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18229

Street: 311 College Dr **City:** Decorah Iowa **Zip** 52101 **County:** Winneshiek

Mailing Address: 311 College Dr, Decorah, IA, 52101

Director's Name: Kim Engrav **Phone Number:** 563-382-4794

On-Site Supervisor(s): Karen Frick **E-Mail:** director@nissepreschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-17-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-21-2020

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: 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	29	0	29
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-27-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/17/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Nisse Preschool and Kids Place in Decorah. I met with Kim Engrav, the program director. Ms. Engrav started with the program in July 2021. She has previously worked in a childcare center, provided in-home care and has worked for Head Start. She has completed all but one course of the NAC training. Karen Frick is the on-site supervisor and lead teacher. She started with the program in September 2019. She has a BA and an AA in early childhood and was previously employed by Head Start. Ms. Frick is a NAEYC member. Laurie "Laura" Betts and Janessa "Nessa" Stoen are the assistants in the room. The program also employs two extended care staff members who are Luther College students.

The program is in a free-standing building. The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:45 am until 5:30 pm and serves preschool-aged children. The program partners with the Decorah Community School system to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant. The four-year-old program meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. The center also provides a three-year-old preschool program. The three-year-old program meets on Thursday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am. Extended childcare is offered at the completion of the preschool programs. There are a total of 38 children enrolled in the childcare center.

The program operates out of one large room. An inspection of the room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with pictures of the children and their families. The room is also decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, puppets, 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 were easily accessible to the children.

Cots are used to nap for the children who stay for extended care. Bedding is washed daily.

There are two bathrooms available for the children. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in the bathroom in the storage area but must be posted in the bathroom in the classroom. Children must be potty trained to attend the program.

The four-year-old preschool program uses Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. GOLD assessments are completed on each child, and they follow the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). They also use the Wilson Foundations literacy program, Second Step, Read It Again curriculum and a math curriculum. They also follow the Early Learning Outcomes (ELO) to prepare the children for school. Creative Curriculum is also the primary source for creating lesson plans for the three-year-old program, but other resources are also utilized. Activities are developed around studies. The length of time spent on each study depends on the children's interest level. Nisse Preschool uses the Positive Behavior

Intervention Supports (PBIS) program in their classroom. The program partners with Keystone AEA to work with children who have identified needs. A newsletter is provided to parents in the four-year-old program each week and to parents in the three-year-old program each month.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of playground inspections. A radon test was completed in November 2021 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. A radon mitigation system was put in after high radon levels were detected in the past. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the microwave. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/21/20.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The program provides a morning snack and lunch to the preschool children and an afternoon snack is provided to the children in extended care. Parents can purchase lunch from the Winneshiek Medical Center or parents can provide a lunch from home for the children. The program can supplement the meals from home if necessary. A volunteer picks up the lunches and delivers them to the childcare center. Lunch is delivered individually packaged. The center provides milk. Snacks are provided by the parents in the morning and by the center in the afternoon. Snacks are documented on a calendar. Please be aware that two separate components must be served for snack. I observed on the calendar that yogurt or Gogurts are being served with milk. This is only one component. Disposable products are used. There are sinks available in a storage room to wash dishes using the three-step method when necessary. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines. There is a refrigerator on site and thermometers were present. Allergies were posted.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

The playground is a fenced area. Poly Extruded Matting (PEM) provides the cushion surfacing. The PEM Playground Matting has shredded rubber contained in chambers. There is a slide and a bicycle merry-go-round for the children. There is also a sandbox, sensory table, basketball hoop, a playhouse, woodworking, blocks and transportation items. A picnic table is in this 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.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They have a great routine and work well together. Staff members sat with the children during snack and maintained positive conversation with them. Ms. Frick was reading the children a book. She was expressive while reading and included the children in the story by asking them questions. Staff members provided clear directions and offered the children choices. They provided the children with praise. Staff members moved around the space to provide supervision and interact with the children. The children appeared to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Engrav states they are applying for an IQ4K level of 2.

Ms. Engrav states they have staff longevity. The three teachers have great teamwork. They complement each other and have a great routine.

Ms. Frick is great as the lead teacher. She has a BA and an AA in early childhood and was previously employed by Head Start. She is also bi-lingual. Ms. Engrav states Ms. Frick is a wonderful teacher.

Ms. Engrav states all the teachers are great. They always have activities set up for the children and they are doing observations.

Ms. Engrav states they partner with Keystone AEA for services, such as speech therapy and AEA provides the program with great activity resources.

The four-year-old children take field trips, and they use a school bus for transportation. The dental office visits the center for presentations and the fire department has also made visits.

Ms. Engrav states the center partners with the Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteer Program in Decorah. They use senior volunteers to deliver their meals to the center.

Ms. Engrav states they have great communication with the parents.

Ms. Engrav states the three-year preschool program has good social and emotional enrichment activities and opportunities for the children.

The program partners with the Decorah Community School system to provide preschool through the voluntary four-year-old preschool grant.

Conferences are provided to parents twice each year.

The program has three teachers which allow the children to have more one-on-one attention.

The program utilizes PBIS in the classroom.

The program has great visual cues in the room for the children, including a daily schedule and pictures to depict the current study.

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.

An administrative change is being made to name Kim Engrav as the program director. She has been working with the program since July 2021 and has been working toward meeting the required points during this time. I reviewed the paperwork while I was at the center. Ms. Engrav please go in and make the formal request in I-Power. Karen Frick is the om-site supervisor.

*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.