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

Name of Center: Noah's Ark Pre-K **Enrollment:** 43 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30223

Street: 858 7th Ave SE **City:** Le Mars Iowa **Zip** 51031 **County:** Plymouth

Mailing Address: 858 7th Ave SE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

Director's Name: Shannon Jensen **Phone Number:** 712-546-6626

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** noahsarkpreschoollemars@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-01-2022

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 11-18-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-08-2022

Comments :

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			19		19
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 12-06-2022

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited Noah's Ark Preschool on 12-01-22 and spoke with Shannon Jensen, Director. Ms Jensen has an Elementary Education degree and her masters in Education and Early Childhood as well as having fifteen years of experience working with children. Noah's Ark Preschool is located in one room of the Presbyterian United Church of Christ in Le Mars. The program serves children 3-5 years old. The center operates Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 11:00am for three year olds and 12:30pm to 3:00pm for 4 & 5 year old's.

There are 43 children enrolled in the program 16 - 3yr olds M & W; 14 - 3yr olds T & TH; and 13 - 4/5 year olds Monday thru Thursday afternoon. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. Given the current corona-virus pandemic, time was spent on discussing how the center is managing. The center is following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys daily or switching toys out that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children.

Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, and engaging the children in activities. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center utilizes the Iowa Learning Standards for preschool. This past year they added another sink with a touchless water faucet.

Refrigerator is clean. Nutritious snacks are provided by the center. Good food storage practices were observed. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition but are not on the food program. Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children or remain in the child's back pack in their locker. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating, however, the product needs to be different due to the fumes. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test and annual heating inspection are complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place. Center had received a grant from United Way and put in a playground in for the center and a door directly from the room to the playground this past summer. The playground has a privacy fence, a cement slab for riding toys and a grassy area for running. The program does not have any climbing structures. They are looking at putting in shade hopefully next summer.

The center uses the SCRTS to transport for field trips. Field trip are only for the afternoon group which are for 4/5 year old.

The goals of the center is to look at getting on the IQ4K program (referral made), and to look at getting on the statewide voluntary preschool program. Which if they do they will twick their afternoon program by 30 minutes.

Strengths of the program is that the director and staff have a good relationship with the children and their families that they serve. They try and communicate frequently with their families via email, newsletter, or Facebook page. Shannon completed her Masters in Early childhood May 2022

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center has a good working relationship with the children and their families. They also have staff that have been with the program 3 years or more.

Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

Student assessments are completed 3 times per year.

Parent-teacher conferences are held 2 times per year.

The classroom is well organized.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Very positive interaction with the children

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

none

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.