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

Name of Center: Good Shepherd Preschool **Enrollment:** 41 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18088

Street: 1105 Washington St **City:** Eldora Iowa **Zip** 50627 **County:** Hardin

Mailing Address: 1105 Washington St, Eldora, IA, 50627

Director's Name: Karen Ritter **Phone Number:** 641-858-5928

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

Date(s) of Visit: 02-14-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 09-10-2020

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			24		24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-17-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An announced annual visit was made to the Good Shepherd Preschool program on 02-14-23 where I met with center director Karen Ritter. Karen has been the director of the program since 1994. Karen has a Bachelor degree and Early Childhood Specialty Endorsement. Karen has two assistants, Christine Balvanz, and Elaine Manship. The program is located in a single classroom in the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora. The program is operated as a non-profit preschool overseen by a board of directors. The program provides pre-school programming only in three sessions with 2 morning 3 year old classes that meet two days a week, and an afternoon 4 year old class that meets four days a week. There are currently 41 children enrolled between the three sessions. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The structural and layout characteristics remain the same as in prior years. The classroom is located on a lower level of the church. There are several entrances to the room that lead to other spaces in the building and one providing direct secondary egress to the outdoors and playground. There are two bathroom spaces located off the classroom space so that children do not need to leave the room. Sinks are located in the classroom space outside the restrooms. Windows are located along the upper level of the exterior wall and provide natural light, a limited view, and ventilation. The classroom and building were observed to be clean with no issues noted due to maintenance. The room is divided into activity centers through the use of low shelves, play structures, and furniture. The furnishing are arranged so that they do not create blind areas though there is one area between some taller shelving units that has reduced visibility that requires the teachers to be aware of how they position themselves to ensure supervision.

Activity centers include group learning, dramatic play, library, art/crafts, blocks, large/small manipulatives, science/math, and sand/water play.
The media center does have a TV on wall mounted swing arm and it was discussed that attaching the cabling to the swing arm would help to reduce the risk of it being an entanglement hazard. Each center was well stocked with age appropriate materials that were in good condition and readily accessible to the children. Karen does rotate the materials to be reflective and supportive of the planned curriculum themes. The curriculum theme on the day of my visit was Light & Shadows. The center was having a Valentines party on the day of the visit where the children also had a family member with them. While the overall programming was a more relaxed version of the typical daily schedule the teachers did continue to engage the children in many of the normal curriculum activities.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers directing the children to wash their hands prior to snack, after restroom use, and other times they became soiled. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting until the children had left the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. The center does have a first aid kit which was well stocked with materials to address most common first aid needs. The first aid kit, chemical cleaners, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. While the center does not routinely administer medications policies and practices are in place to ensure that medications are properly labeled, stored, and documented when administered. The center did have emergency response plans for those children that had identified allergies, or other health concerns.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The children take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of appropriate snack items is provided to parents. A copy of the snacks that are actually served is maintained. The program also maintains a small supply of snack items to supplement as needed and good food storage and handling practices are in place.

The playground is fully enclosed by fencing. The playground has a climbing structure and other toys for the children to play with. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for cushioning ground cover. The center has also added foam mats in the high traffic areas to reduce the displacement of fall surfacing. There is a paved area for riding equipment and a grassy area where children can play. Shade is provided by the building, play structures, and large mature trees located outside the fenced play area.

All required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation and certifications. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information with the exception of 2 that did not have a physical, and 1 physical that was expired. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. It is noted that the Radon testing for the center was measured to 4.7 piCu/L which is above the 4.0 cutoff limit. The center was in the process of conducting retesting and if results continue to be high will install a mitigation system.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the QRS program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and was rated as a 3 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

The center also participates in the QPPS program for the 4 year old class under the Department of Education.

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 3

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan to correct and maintain those issued cited as not meeting licensing standards with an anticipated date of completion. At least one visit will be made to the center during the following 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.