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

Name of Center: Grundy Community Preschool & Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22321

Street: 1201 9th ST **City:** Grundy Center Iowa **Zip** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 1201 9th ST, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Kim Brower **Phone Number:** 319-825-3565

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rhonda Kruger **E-Mail:** kbgcpcc@gcmuni.net

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2022

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 06-19-2020

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	12	6	18	5	41
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 11-28-2022

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Grundy Community Preschool & Child Care Center on 11-14-22 where I met with the center director Kim Brower. Kim is the director of this program and also the director of Grundy Community Preschool which is located at a separate site. Ms. Brower has been with the center since 1995 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and training. The center is located in a residential home and is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The center provides daycare programming for infants through school age children. There are approximately 47 children enrolled in the program served by 11 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

As noted the facility is a residential home setting and has a split level design. The layout of the building and classrooms has not changed from prior visits. Infants are located on the upper floor of the center with the space divided by a half wall to define separate areas for mobile and non-mobile children. A dining area has also been established by panel dividers. The lower level is used for preschool and school age child programming. Each room was observed to be clean. There were several maintenance issues noted such as damaged drywall, warped linoleum flooring, and damage to the exterior siding. While none of the observed issues rose to the level of being an immediate safety concern temporary corrective maintenance such as placing duct tape over the drywall damage had been implemented. There is both a main and back stairwell to provide exits from each room. The exits were observed to be clear of any obstruction. The lack of at grade egress does limit the center to using an evacuation plan of staff carrying infants and other mobility assisted children. Windows provide natural lighting, ventilation, and view of the outdoors in both areas though the windows of of the lower level are located high on the walls and the light and view are more restricted. Bathroom, and diaper changing stations are located on both levels.

Activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create blind areas. Each activity center was stocked with a variety of toys and materials. The toys were appropriate to the ages of the children present and in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum themes was posted. On the day of my visit the planned themes included Thanksgiving with specific activities of friendship, pumpkin pie plate craft activity, pumpkin playdough, and counting turkey feathers. Good interactions were observed with the staff being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The preschool age children were reading stories, and then did a music and movement activity during the time of the visit with the teachers participating with the children. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers recognizing positive behavior, giving specific direction, and redirecting children if needed. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. I was not able to observe diaper changing procedures on the day of my visit but prior visits have noted staff do follow established procedures. A copy of the diapering procedures posting swere present by all changing stations. Good hand washing practices were in place with staff ensuring the children washed their hands following restroom use, and prior to eating. First aid kits were observed to contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. The staff did wait for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Over the counter medications were labeled and all medications were

properly stored. Safe sleep practices were being followed in the center on the day of my visit.

Meals are prepared on-site and the kitchen area was observed to be clean. Good food storage and handling procedures were observed during the time of my visit. A menu is posted and followed and identifies a good variety of nutritious food options. The snack being served on the day of my visit did include grapes and staff did cut them so that they would not be a choking risk for younger children. Supervision was provided at the tables when the children were eating.

The playground area is divided into two sections with one for older children, and one for younger children. Both areas are fenced both around them, and with a line that separates them. There were several retaining clips that were broken or missing and while the fence is mounted on the inside of the posts which helps to reduce the risk of entrapment these still need to be repaired or replaced. The playground makes use of residential grade climbing structures which were generally in good repair but showing wear and should be monitored for replacement. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing in one area, and foam tiles in another. The pea gravel has developed a hard pan layer and either needs to be aerated or have additional fall surfacing installed. Shade is provided by the building and large mature trees.

Administrative records were reviewed and all required notices and postings were present. Random selections of both staff and child files were reviewed and compared to the self-audit maintained by the center which was found to be accurate. The review child files involved a random selection of 14 files which were found to contain all current and required documentation with the exception of 3 that needed an updated physical. The review and self-audit of staff files identified found all full time employees to be in full compliance. One issue that was noted was the file for an identified substitute teacher which only contained an Iowa SING background check. It was reviewed with Kim that changes to Licensing Standards removed the differential requirements for part-time and substitute staff with all staff who are directly responsible for caring for children being subject to the same documentation and training requirements as full time staff. Inspection logs and certificates were current and available for all required elements. It was noted however that playground inspection had identified that the fall surfacing was satisfactory for the entire year despite having a hardpan layer that would have required an extended period of time to develop to the current state. It was discussed that staff do need to properly assess and document conditions when conducting inspections.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

The center is currently working to have renovations completed at another facility where the formal preschool program and daycare will be located. The original plans had been to have the program move to the location at the end of the summer but due to construction delays this has been moved back to where the program hopes to move during the Christmas break.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The fall surfacing of the outdoor playground is not safe. The pea gravel has developed a hardpan layer and either needs to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.