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

Name of Center: Small World Preschool **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22893

Street: 3475 Kimball Ave **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 3475 Kimball Ave, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Erin McGrane **Phone Number:** 319-235-6808

On-Site Supervisor(s): Erin McGrane **E-Mail:** smallworldpreschool.em@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-02-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 10-18-2023

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	45	0	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 04-02-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/02/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Small World Preschool. I met with Erin McGrane, the director and the lead teacher in the Pre-K class. She has a BA in elementary education and has previously worked as a teacher with Head Start. Ms. McGrane is a NAEYC member. She has been with the program since 2007. Jenny Riordan is the lead teacher in the three and four-year-old classroom. She has a BA in early childhood education and unified special education. Emily Smalley and Anna Albrecht are the assistants in the classrooms. Ms. Smalley started with the program in January 2020 and Ms. Albrecht started with the program in August 2024.

Small World Preschool is in Central Christian Church. The preschool is an educational outreach program of the church. The Pre-K program operates Monday through Thursday from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm. The three and four-year-old program operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. They offer parents an early drop off at 7:45 am. There are currently 23 children enrolled.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, woodworking, math, science/discovery, playdough, 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.

There are two bathrooms located in the hallway. There is one for the boys and one for the girls. Each bathroom has a toilet and sink, and handwashing procedures were posted. There are other bathrooms located in the church that are accessible to the children if necessary.

The program can use the fellowship hall for gross motor activities when they are not able to go outside.

Snacks are furnished by the parents. Snacks are recorded on calendars. The preschool uses disposable products, so dishwashing is not necessary. The children eat in a snack room and in shifts. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Family style is used. Allergies are confidentially posted.

The program is using Clorox Multi-Surface Cleaner to clean the snack tables and Family Guard Disinfectant Cleaner to sanitize the food tables. They have also used Clorox Disinfecting Mist to sanitize the tables.

The preschool curriculum is based on Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) as set for by Creative Curriculum, the Iowa Early Learning Standards and the National Health and Safety Performance Standards for preschool. Activities are planned around weekly studies. Each teacher prepares their own lesson plan. The children learn through play, and it is

critical for learning to be fun, aka: Play with Purpose.

The parents receive a monthly calendar that includes the weekly studies and an overview of what the children will be learning and activities they will participate in. The Pre-K preschool class partners with the Waterloo Community School district to provide the state funded voluntary four-year-old preschool program. Ms. McGrane completes GOLD assessments and IGDI's on each child. The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

Emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number are posted in the classrooms and staff members use their cell phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the program. A daily schedule was posted, and a lesson plan was available for review in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the hallway near the double doors across from the fellowship hall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/18/23.

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. Community resources are in the entrance.

There is a fenced in playground for the children. There is a piece of climbing equipment with a slide and other activities. There are teeter totters, digging equipment, a merry-go-cycle and a playhouse. There are stationary toys to play on and picnic tables for the children. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning and there is also a grassy area for the children to play on. Trees provide shade.

Staff members had terrific interaction with the children. Three of the staff members have worked with one another for quite some time and they work well together and have good routines. Staff members were actively engaged in activities with the children. They change out center activities weekly so the children do not get bored. They were patient and offered the children choices. Staff members were flexible and used positive redirection when necessary. They provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. The children appeared to enjoy themselves.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. McGrane states they have a smaller program which allows individualization of each child. She states they meet the children where they are and build upon that to teach them.

Ms. McGrane states they have good communication with families and children. They acknowledge the parents and children at drop-off and pick-up. They have individual communication with the children throughout class. They use the Brightwheel app to communicate with the voluntary preschool class and they email all the families. They also have monthly newsletters.

Ms. McGrane states they keep things new and fresh for the children. They change out center activities weekly which helps the children stay engaged and not get bored. She states in turn that helps with behaviors. They change the centers to coincide with the theme.

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that just expired on 03/31/24.

The preschool is an educational outreach program of Central Christian Church.

The program is partnering with the Waterloo School District to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program.

Ms. McGrane states they offer family events such as Donuts with Dads in April and Muffins with Moms in May.

The teachers use several visual cues in the classrooms to assist in educating the children. They are creative in their lessons and use repetition as a teaching method.

The program's hallways are decorated with the children's artwork, which makes if friendly and inviting.

The program utilizes Central Rivers AEA for children with identified special needs.

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.

*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.