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

Name of Center: Central Preschool **Enrollment:** 33 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22860

Street: 601 Milwaukee ST STE 1 **City:** Charles City Iowa **Zip** 50616 **County:** Floyd

Mailing Address: 601 Milwaukee ST STE 1, Charles City, IA, 50616

Director's Name: Dusty Schmitt **Phone Number:** 641-228-6803

On-Site Supervisor(s): Stacy Larson **E-Mail:** centralpreschool3@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-31-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-23-2021

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	0	0	36	0	36
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 11-16-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Central Preschool in Charles City on 10-31-23 where I met with the center director, Dusty Schmitt. Dusty started with the program in August 2018 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and training. Stacy Larson is the assistant teacher who joined the program at the start of the 2023 school year. The preschool is located in Trinity United Methodist Church. The program offers a three and four-year-old preschool program and partners with the Charles City School System for the statewide voluntary four-year-old preschool program. There are 33 children enrolled in the program between the two classes. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The preschool operates out of two rooms that are connected by a short pass-through where a toilet and sink are located. This pass through also serves as the secondary egress for each room. Additional sinks are available in each room to further facilitate hand washing. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural lighting, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Both rooms were observed to be clean with no concerns related to maintenance. The primary classroom is arranged with tables and activity centers that allow for small group, and individual play activities. The other room is more open and allows for more active teacher lead group activities such as music and movement. The arrangement of activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures is such that it does not create any blind areas. Each center had a good supply of materials that were observed to be in good condition and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted. The curriculum focus was a general theme related to Halloween which was implemented through activities such as a "candy corn" craft project, and number recognition activity using Halloween related images. Good interactions were observed with both teachers being actively engaged with the children implementing the planned curriculum. As an example Dusty lead the small group teacher lead number recognition activity while Stacy assisted the children with their craft project and providing general supervision for those children that had finished and were engaged in self-directed play. The center uses positive behavior management techniques that include redirection, reminders of expected behavior and rules, and recognition of positive behaviors.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Snacks are furnished by parents based on a list of snacks options provided to parents that meet the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines. A record of snacks that were provided is maintained on a calendar. A limited number of snack options are maintained at the center. There is a refrigerator in the classroom for items that need to be kept cold and a thermometer was present. Good food storage and handling practices were observed with all food items being properly stored.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as required, after using the restroom, and at other times as needed. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. When using cleaning products the teachers wait for the children to be out of the immediate area. First aid kits are maintained and contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. During the visit one child did complain of not feeling well and the teachers did follow good procedures with regard to using a thermometer to

check the child temperature, asking questions to help assess the nature of the child's health, and giving guidance to the child to continue to play but at a reduced level.

The center does have a playground area available which is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. The playground is an open grassy area and a small toddler slide was added since the last visit. The slide is a small residential grade free standing plastic structure with a vertical height of no more than 18 inches. The center should remove this structure or install fall surfacing and anchor the structure to reduce the risk of the structure toppling over. There are a variety of dramatic play structures, balls, and other equipment for the children to play with that are all ground based units that do not require fall surfacing. Several mature trees around the exterior of the space provide shade. All equipment was observed to be in good repair though some items were nearing the end of their useful life.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily available to parents. A random selection of 50% of the child files were reviewed and of those all were found to contain all required information. The center is currently using the Brightwheel application to maintain files and allow for communication with parents. Both staff files were reviewed contained all required documentation with the exception of the FBI National record check for Dusty having expired and needing to be renewed. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This continues to be a very strong curriculum focused program that seeks to help children develop school readiness skills.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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 and maintain 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.