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

Name of Center: Garner Community Christian Child Care **Enrollment:** 41 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48449

Street: 580 E US HWY 18 **City:** Garner Iowa **Zip** 50438 **County:** Hancock

Mailing Address: PO Box 84, Garner, IA, 50438

Director's Name: Cara Fish **Phone Number:** 641-925-1270

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** kidsgc4@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-29-2024

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: 11-07-2023

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	14		19		33
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-12-2024

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 the Garner Community Christian Child Care center on 02-29-24 where met with the center director, Cara Fish. Cara is well qualified for the position with a Bachelor degree in education, extensive experience, and on-going professional development. The program is located in the Evangelical Free Church in Garner but is operated as a non-profit center overseen by a separate board of directors. The building is an open multiple use facility that has had other programs in operation when the daycare is operating but none were present on the day of my visit. While those programs do have access to common areas such as restrooms and hallways that are also used by the daycare the staff do ensure that there is separation so that there is no intrusion into the programming classrooms, and that the daycare children are supervised at all times. The program provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are currently 41 children enrolled in the program served by 8 staff. All aspects of the center subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of the building, arrangement of classrooms, and structure of the program remains the same as in prior visits. The program is currently making use of three classrooms but has the option to expand into other rooms of the center. Each classroom was observed to be clean with no concerns related to maintenance or design. The infant, 2 year old room, and the room being used as an office have direct secondary egress to the outdoors. The preschool room has multiple exits opening onto the main corridor with one exit that is next to an exterior exit. Each exit was clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. The preschool room has a folding curtain divider that can be used to separate the space into two rooms but which is generally left open. The two year old room has a counter unit with a wall mounted gate that defines the main programming space from a changing area and bathroom access. Each room either has windows in the egress doors, or installed in the exterior walls that provide natural light and a view of the outdoors. All windows are sealed units that do not open. There is a pass-through restroom between the infant and toddler rooms, and additional restrooms for the preschool classroom are located off the main hallway. Due to the multiple use aspect of the building children are escorted to the restroom as needed. A sink is also available in the infant room to facilitate food and bottle preparation. Each room has an open floor plan with toys and materials arranged along the walls so that there are no blind areas.

The available activity centers increase in each room as the age groups present increase. All classrooms have options for reading, art/crafts, and large/small manipulatives. The preschool room also includes dramatic play, group learning, table games/puzzles, math and science. A good variety of toys and materials present in each classroom that were observed to be in good repair. One issue that was noted was that some of the toys in the infant room had small parts which could be a choking risk. It was reviewed that items or toys with parts of less than 1 1/4 inches diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length are considered choking hazards and need to be removed from rooms with children under 24 months of age, and should be kept in storage where they can be brought out for supervised play for 3 year old children. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum was posted for each classroom. The general curriculum varies by room and the staff do identify specific activity options throughout the day to support the curriculum. Good interactions were observed in all classrooms with the teachers attending to the children's needs or implementing the planned curriculum. As an example the planned curriculum theme for the 2 year old classroom included a focus on the letter concept "C" and during the visit the teacher did a group activity of having the children complete a coloring page of a C and a Cookie. The center uses a positive behavior support approach to reduce the occurrence of behavior issues. This includes the use of routines, praise, reminders of expected

behavior, and redirection.

Good health and safety policies are in place. During the visit I was able to observe a diaper change and the staff did follow the posted procedures. The center uses a hydrogen peroxide based product to disinfect surfaces. The staff did follow good practices with waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners, and storing them in an area where they are not readily accessible. First aid kits were present and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Over the counter and prescription medications were properly labeled and stored. Required staff to child ratios were maintained in all classrooms. Good safe sleep practices were observed in the infant room during the visit.

The program makes use of the church kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. Good food storage and handling practices were generally observed in both the kitchen and classroom areas. Meals are served in the classrooms and good food service practices were observed. The teachers did ensure the children washed their hands before eating. The teachers used food service gloves when handling food and plates. A copy of the prepared menu was posted. During the visit snack was served and it was noted that the one element consisted of Craven Animal Cookies. These are not considered credible and the center does need to replace that as a snack item to ensure that children are provided with food that are identified as credible according to the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The center has a small defined playground areas enclosed with chain link fencing, as well as access to a large open grassy area where the children can play. The center has obtained a few residential grade dramatic play sets and and small climbing structure. Fall surfacing is needed beneath the climbing structure. The ground of the playground was also observed to be very uneven and should be leveled. Support posts have been installed where an awning can be hung during the summer months for shade. The program does have access to the church sanctuary which is a large open space where seating can be moved to create a space where the children can engage in large motor activities and play when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. The center does maintain self-audits of child and staff files and a random selection of both were reviewed and compared to the self-audits which were found to be accurate. The self audit for the child files identified 1 physical had just expired and needed to be renewed. In reviewing staff files 1 needed a copy of a current physical, and 2 needed updated 1st Aid/CPR training though it was noted that both were enrolled in a class scheduled for 03-04-24. The center parent and staff handbooks were previously reviewed and all required policies were present. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center does participate in the Quality Rating Scales program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and has improved their standing so that they are now rated a 3 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

The program is moving forward with plans to construct a new facility that will all them to have a dedicated space, and increase the capacity to serve additional children.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

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.
-- Fall surfacing is required for the small slide structure and any other equipment designed to elevate children from the ground. That structure shall not be used until such time that appropriate fall surfacing is installed which is compliant with requirements established in the CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf)

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Toys that are less than or have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches in length are considered a choking hazard and need to be removed from classrooms with children under 3 years of age.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
-- The provided snack on the day of the visit was not considered credible.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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 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.