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

Name of Center: Washington Charlie Brown PS and CC **Enrollment:** 150 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 37114

Street: 700 N Washington Ave **City:** Mason City Iowa **Zip** 50401 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 700 N Washington Ave, Mason City, IA, 50401

Director's Name: Amber Morud **Phone Number:** 641-423-6029

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristi Peterson **E-Mail:** washingtoncb@charliebrownpreschools.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-16-2023

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

Date Inspected: 10-11-2021

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	40	28	47	52	167
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 08-21-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Washington Charlie Brown center on 08-16-23 where I met with center director Kristi Peterson. Kristi is well qualified for the position having extensive experience with working in early childhood care. The program is located in the old Washington elementary school building in Mason City. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors as part of a group of daycare centers in the area. The center provides preschool and daycare programming to infants through school age children. There are approximately 150 children enrolled in the program served by 25 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms remain the same as in prior reports. Classrooms are determined by age with infants divided into 3 rooms determined by age and developmental level. All class rooms were observed to be clean with only minor maintenance issues noted which did not present an immediate safety concern. The infant rooms have secondary entrances that provide direct egress to the outdoors, as does the Woodstock room which serves the 4-5 year old children. Each room has a large bank of windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and in the older age classrooms serve as secondary egress. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Each classroom has sinks in the room to allow for hand washing and toilets available in the classrooms so that children do not need to leave the room. Additional toilets located off the main hallway. Classrooms serving younger children also have changing stations. Each room is divided into activity centers through the use of furniture, shelves, and play structures. The arrangement is such that it does not create any blind areas in any of the rooms.

The available activity centers vary by age and developmental level with all rooms having options such as large/small manipulatives, library, and art/crafts. As the ages and developmental levels increase other options such as math/science, dramatic play, table games, and group learning are present. Each room had a good variety of toys and materials that were in good repair and generally appropriate to the ages of the children present however some toys in younger classrooms needed to be removed. Small toys and materials or toys which have small parts that can break off which are less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 in length are considered choking hazards for children under 3 years of age and need to be removed from the classrooms. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted in each room and each room develops their own curriculum plan. The staff in each classroom were actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs and implementing the planned curriculum. As an example the staff in the young infant room had just just finished a craft project related to the theme of Octopus. Positive behavior management techniques were being used throughout the center. This included the teachers recognizing positive behaviors with praise, reminding children of expected behavior, redirecting children, and helping children with problem solving. These techniques were all very effective and as a result there were no situations in which staff needed to use any form of consequence based management.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the time of my visit. Proper diaper changing procedures were observed in all classrooms where children need assistance with diapering. All over the counter medications were properly labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Good medication administration procedures were observed for dispensing and documentation of prescription medications. The center uses a variety of cleaning and

disinfecting agents depending on the intended use and type of surface being cleaned and the staff did follow the label directions for each item. It was noted that in once classroom an ointment for tinea cruris which is a fungal infection and it was reviewed that when reading the disinfectant label for the cleaning product a longer dwell time is required for disinfecting with molds and funguses. Chemical cleaners, medications, purses, and other items that could present a health or safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. The center has a primary first aid kit but smaller travel first aid bags are kept in each classroom. The center does have children with identified allergies and response plans were present in the children's files. Good hand washing and other hygiene practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as required. Good safe sleep practices were observed for children sleeping in cribs.

The center has several playground areas with one for the toddlers, one for the preschool and school age children, and a third playground area is available on the facility property which would be more appropriate for older school age children. The center has finished the renovations of both the toddler and preschool playground spaces. The wooden climbing structure that had been in the preschool playground has been removed and new arched wall climbing structure has been installed. Foam tiles are used for fall surfacing for that structure. The toddler playground completed renovations with removing a retaining wall and installing fencing. The third playground space has several climbing structures which were observed to have some wear but were sound with no damage noted. The center just added more shredded wood mulch to the playground and Kristi did note that this was from the city recycling facility. One issue that was noted is that the material included some shredded wood pieces that were 6 - 12 inches in length. When using wood mulch the mulch should be of less than 2 inches in length. Kristi did state that staff have been working to remove the longer piece. Shade is provided by a number of mature trees. There are also large open grassy areas, and paved areas where the children can play.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The kitchen was generally observed to be clean with good food storage and handling practices in place. It was observed that some old food items had fallen behind/under the stove, and a couple of bags of bulk items had been rolled closed. Both of these situations can be an attractant to insects and rodents. While there was no evidence of infestation the staff do need to ensure that regular cleaning schedules are followed and all food items are properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers. A copy of the pre-planned menu is posted and identifies a good variety of nutritious meal options. Meals are served in the classrooms and the teachers were observed to use food service gloves and measured scoops when plating food. The teachers do sit and eat with the children to provide supervision at the table and model good eating habits.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A review of child and staff files was conducted. A random sample of 10% of the child files were selected for review and all were found to contain all required documentation with the exception of 2 that needed a renewed physical which had recently expired. A random sample of 5 staff files were selected for review and all were found to contain all required documentation. The center policy handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the QRS program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

The center has a very strong group of staff with a consist focus on providing a quality program being observed throughout the center. The teachers in every classroom were actively engaged with the children either presenting activities that were part of the planned curriculum, or playing with the children as they engaged in self-directed play.

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

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.
-- Small toys or materials, or with parts that can break off that are less than 1 1/4 inch in diameter and 2 1/4 inch in length are considered choking risks and need to be removed from classrooms with children under 3 years of age. When using recycled wood mulch the chip size needs to be 2 inches or less.

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 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.