

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

Name of Center: Teaching and Learning For Christ Preschool **Enrollment:** 14 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 39655

Street: 315 4th Ave NE **City:** Belmond Iowa **Zip** 50421 **County:** Wright

Mailing Address: PO Box 212, Belmond, IA, 50421

Director's Name: Lisa Lovgren **Phone Number:** 641-444-4149

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** tlcpreschool123@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-11-2024

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: 01-05-2022

Comments : Inspection conducted 12-08-21, compliance and approved inspection certificate issued 01-05-22.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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			27		27
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 11-01-2024 to 11-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 10-15-2024

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 Teaching and Learning For Christ Preschool on 10-11-24 where I met with center director Lisa Lovgren. Lisa became the director in 2017 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience, education, and on-going training. The program is located in a single classroom in Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The center only provides preschool programming serving children 3 and 4 years of age. There are currently 14 children enrolled in the program served by Lisa and her assistant Kali. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The layout of the classroom remains the same as in the previous report. The program is located in a single classroom that was constructed specifically for the preschool program on the lower level of the church. There are two exits on either side of the room both opening on stairwells that lead to direct exits. Windows are located along the upper edge of the exterior wall and provide natural light but no view or ventilation. The room is well lit with artificial lighting. Restroom facilities are available directly from the classroom so that children do not need to leave the room. A large basin sink with multiple spigots is located in the main classroom to facilitate hand washing. An additional sink is located in a counter and can be used for food preparation. A drinking fountain and water bottle fill station has also been installed. The room has an open floor plan with no issues noted with regard to construction or maintenance. The classroom is arranged to have a large open area where the children can move and play. Activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures and are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

The activity centers options and arrangement also remains much the same as in the prior report and include dramatic play, sensory tables, blocks, a discovery center, art/crafts, reading, and science, and tables for activities that require a flat stable surface and eating. The center did acquire a new discovery table, and some other equipment. The materials present were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A daily schedule and a copy of the planned curriculum were posted where it would be visible to parents and visitors. The center uses a pre-planned curriculum which identifies learning focus themes for the month and is ordered in a consistent presentation from year to year. The identified focus themes for October included Fall, Fire Prevention, and Patience as well as specific learning concepts such as the letters A - D. The materials, and activities presented were reflective of these themes with fire trucks for large manipulative play, and fireman equipment and doll houses with tissue paper flames for dramatic play. Ratio was maintained in the center as required with both teachers present in the classroom. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with both teachers being actively engaged with the children and presenting the planned curriculum. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the use of routines, reminders of expected behavior, and recognition of positive behavior.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed on the day of my visit. First aid kits are maintained in the center and were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center does not routinely administer medications but does have policies in place should it be necessary in the future. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers washing their hands as needed, and directing the children to wash their hands before and after snack, after restroom use, and other times they became soiled. Good cleaning practices are in place with the center conducting a deep clean and disinfecting at the end of each day when the children are not present, and sanitizing surfaces as

needed through the day. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. One issue that was noted was that the center had frogs as pets. Frogs are known carriers of Salmonella which can be transmitted to humans through both direct and indirect contact. Lisa did state that she would find a different home for the frogs and remove them from the center.

Due to the limited hours of operation the center does not serve meals but snacks are provided. The parents do take it in turn to provide the snack and a list of suggested items is provided. A limited supply of snack items is maintained at the center to supplement if needed and good food storage and service practices were observed. The center does maintain a menu of items that are served and the snack provided on the day of the visit included crackers, cheese, and beef sticks. The staff and children did wash their hands before serving and eating snacks. The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the tables. During snack service one child did drop their snack on the floor and the teachers did direct the child to leave it and reserved the child.

The center playground is fully enclosed by fencing, and does not include any climbing structures. The play options include a music center, dramatic play, art center, as well as riding and other toys the children can play with. All of the equipment was observed to be in good repair. There is a wooden construction dramatic play boat that is showing some weathering and will need to be monitored for sanding and resealing due to weathering. The space has a small paved side walk area, and the primary play space consists of an area covered by artificial grass. Shade is provided by the building and large mature trees. There is one area with a storage shed set in a recessed area created by the entry to the church. While the teachers have taken steps to cordon off that area it is still accessible and will need to be monitored for children who may seek to hide behind the shed.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in areas readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. All child files were found to contain all required documentation. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were current and available. The center handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program continues to have a strong focus on learning and development of school readiness skills. This was observed throughout the visit such as during story time where the teacher reading the story also spoke with the children about elements of the story in way to explain those elements or asking questions to help the children learn. In addition after the story the teacher spoke with the children about they have or could apply the moral in their personal lives.

Lisa did identify that the center has a very strong reputation within the community, and the the parents of the children that attend. This was reflected in her talking to members of the community who have commented on the skill changes they have observed in the children after they attend the program, and the number of children that are siblings to prior enrolled students. Lisa also stated that the parents are very supportive in obtaining equipment and materials for the center if they post that there are items that they need or want to improve the program.

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

109.10(14): Pets: Animals kept on site shall be in good health with no evidence of disease, does not pose a safety threat, and is maintained in clean manner. Documentation of current vaccinations shall be available for cats and dogs. Pets shall not be allowed in food prep or kitchen areas. Animals prohibited from being kept on site: ferrets, reptiles, turtles, birds of the parrot family.

-- Frogs were present in the center and are known carriers of salmonella and need to be removed.

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.