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

Name of Center: Calvary Christian Preschool **Enrollment:** 67 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28762

Street: 327 35th St NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 327 35th St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Brooke Higgins **Phone Number:** 319-363-3683

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Quelle **E-Mail:** Hannah.CalvaryCC@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-21-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-21-2022

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

Date Inspected: 11-01-2022

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	24	12	33	20	89
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

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

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 12-05-2022

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Calvary Christian Preschool commenced operations in fall, 2009. Calvary Christian Preschool is a ministry of Calvary Community Chapel (Calvary Chapel Iowa) which is a non-denominational Christian based chapel. The program is physically located inside a building adjacent to the Calvary Chapel worship space/building. Calvary Christian Preschool operates year-round Monday through Friday 6:30am to 5:30pm. The non-profit program serves children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 67.

Director is Brooke Higgins. Ms. Higgins has been with this program since it opened and assumed the director role position 10/1/2022. Ms. Higgins has an early childhood para educator certificate, over 10 years experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor is Heather Quelle. Ms. Quelle has been in this position since 10/10/2022. Ms. Quelle has a BA degree in elementary education, 1 year experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 11/21/2022, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Calvary Christian Preschool was established in 2009 and is currently celebrating their 13-year anniversary. Calvary Christian Preschool is a well-established program offering many different early learning opportunities and childcare option to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. The program is located in a residential neighborhood of a predominantly urban community.

Calvary Christian Preschool has the following website for persons to gain knowledge about the program: http://calvarychristianpreschool.com/.

The philosophy of Calvary Christian Preschool is to "…provide quality care and treat each child as if they were our own… strive to provide a rich, nurturing environment for your child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth in a fun learning environment". The program believes that young children learn best through an individualized curriculum including a combination of free choice activities and structured small and large group times.

Calvary Christian Preschool has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS and local quality programs. The program has achieved a current QRS 1-Star.

Ownership of Calvary Christian Preschool has remained consistent. Calvary Christian Preschool is a ministry of Calvary Community Church and is governed by a board. Church administration, church custodial/maintenance staff, and the board help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day.

Since the last review, the program obtained a new management team including director Brooke Higgins and on-site supervisor Heather Quelle. The management team appears committed to the church and it's early learning ministry. Ms.

Brooke and Ms. Quelle are familiarizing themselves with licensing guidelines. The management team is organized and working to continue with the systems of organization already in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Ms. Brooke is celebrating her 5th year with the program while Ms. Quelle is celebrating her 1year with the program. Ms. Higgins discussed future goals including gutter and outdoor trim replacement as well as restroom linoleum flooring replacement. Since the last review, Calvary Christian Preschool has retained several seasoned employees as well as hired a few new ones. Staff reported being employed with Calvary Christian Preschool for 11 years, 4 years, 1 year, and 8 months. Since the last review, Ms. Higgins discussed how a staff break room was established, child materials organized, and staff compensation increased.

Kitchen and food storage areas were observed to be extremely organized, sanitary and well-maintained! Ms. Heather has been the program's culinary expert since spring 2021. It's clear Ms. Heather takes great pride in being able to prepare interesting and enjoyable foods for the children. Ms. Heather talked about center favorites including meals/dishes incorporating the foods from this summer's first on-site garden. Infant foods are homemade. Ms. Heather discussed the center's upcoming Thanksgiving feast!

Calvary Christian Preschool has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the 8/10/2020 Derecho storm event and the 2019 pandemic.

Calvary Christian Preschool collaborates well with those throughout the community including local school districts, early access persons, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. Ms. Higgins discussed the church and preschool's outreach activities including a recent donation of 200 coats to the Families First organization and sponsoring local families through the holidays.

Calvary Christian Preschool continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information areas, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included parent/family night out events, parent/program conferences, preschool graduation ceremony, Polar Express PJ Party and Christmas program, off-site field trips (local pumpkin farm, fire station, nature center, and local parks), and successful summer camp experiences.

Building and grounds are maintained. Since the last review, the program's main entrance door was replaced and areas of uneven concrete remedied. Privacy screening was added to the outdoor fence line as well as dilapidated/Derecho damaged fencing replaced. Wood chips were replenished on the outdoor play ground. A gardening experience was incorporated into the preschool curriculum. The large room was repainted and changed into the program's preschool room. Ms. Higgins discussed how preschool curriculum moved to the Abeka curriculum to adhere higher academic and Biblical standards. Curriculum additionally incorporates learning through play, teacher inspired ideas, on-site guest speaker events, enrichment experiences, and off-site field trips.

Staff engage each child in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. Staff throughout the classrooms discussed the program's cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing policies and procedures. Cleaning checklists were observed to be posted in areas around the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Area of study included Thanksgiving and fall season. Classical music was overheard being played in the infant and toddler rooms. Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials) that encourage innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences (e.g. sensory, books, table top games, puzzles, home living play). Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, snack activities) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
- Child file (CL) reviewed lacked current physical exam report. Management reported a physical has been scheduled.
- Child file (EP) lacked an IDPH certificate of immunization.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Licensing strongly supports a plumbed hand washing sink be added to the older infant/toddler classroom and 2-year-old

classroom. Licensing additionally supports updating the child restrooms and kitchen areas (e.g. some cracked flooring observed) as funding become available.

Remedy the toddler room wall utility/electrical cord storage does not create a possible head injury/topple hazard.

Continue to also ensure the following:
- A monthly fire drill, monthly tornado drill and monthly outdoor play area inspection is being conducted and documented as required.
- All cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers are properly labeled (e.g. name, dilution if applicable, required dwell time).
- Primary and secondary exits remain unobstructed at all times (e.g. preschool room).
- One child's personal items are stored separately (e.g. bedding, outdoor winter attire) from every other child's personal items.
- All diapering stations/areas be adjacent hand washing facilities with diapering and hand washing procedures posted.

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Based upon this program obtaining new management since the last review, licensing is making a referral for technical assistance (e.g. supporting resources) to CCR&R.

The program's license is in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.