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

Name of Center: Grundy Community Preschool & Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22321

Street: 1001 8th St **City:** Grundy Center Iowa **Zip** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 1001 8th St, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Kim Brower **Phone Number:** 319-825-3565

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rhonda Kruger **E-Mail:** kbgcpcc@gcmuni.net

Date(s) of Visit: 09-30-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-18-2024

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 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	27	14		25	66
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-08-2024

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 Grundy Community Preschool & Child Care Center on 09-30-24 where I met with the center director Kim Brower. Kim is the director of this program and also the director of Grundy Community Preschool which is located in the same building but operated under a separate license. Kim has been with the center since 1995 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience and training. The center is located in a remodeled building that was previously an elementary school and operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The center provides daycare programming for infants through school age children. There are 52 children enrolled in the program served by 11 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in the prior visit. The building has programming space on two levels with the daycare operating primarily on the main floor, and the preschool program operating on the upper floor. As noted the formal preschool program is operated under a separate license and while the space of those classrooms is available for use by the daycare program when the preschool is not in session that capacity is not included in the capacity determination, nor for programming for the daycare license. The program has access to 5 classrooms with two infant rooms, a 2 year old room, 3 year old room, and 4-5+ classroom. There is also a large indoor gymnasium space that the program can make use of but which is also available to other tenants of the building, and general members of the community. The 4-5 year old classroom has a direct exit to the exterior. The two infant rooms have a connecting doorway that provides for secondary exit from either room. The 2 year old and 3 year old classrooms have secondary exits on opposite ends of the rooms that open onto the main corridor. All exits opened easily and freely and were generally clear of obstruction. One issue that was noted was that a 4 seat infant stroller had been placed in the entry space of the younger infant room which did restrict access to the entry. It was discussed that moving that to the main corridor outside the room entry would provide for clear access in the event of the need to evacuate. All rooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each classroom has restroom facilities directly accessible from the classroom, with additional sinks located in the classrooms. The damaged sink that had been observed in the 3 year old classroom in the prior year had been repaired and was fully functional. The building does have a basement level which is used for emergency storm shelter.

Each classroom is arranged with activity centers created through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create blind areas. Each activity center was stocked with a variety of toys and materials. The toys were appropriate to the ages of the children present and in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum themes were posted for each classroom. As examples the 3 year old children had a focus theme of "Spiders", and the young infants had an "Alphabet" focus with projects for each letter. All of the children were outside playing on the playground when I arrived. While on the playground it was noted that the toddlers and preschool age children were combined, and staff were spaced around the playground much of the supervision was observational. This resulted in situations of children engaging in using equipment that was not appropriate to their developmental levels, and in a manner that was not intended. Later when returning to the classrooms the teachers were much more engaged with the children attending to their needs such as assisting with diapering/toileting, preparing lunch, and reading stories. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers recognizing positive behavior, giving specific direction, and redirecting children if needed. When speaking to the children all teachers were observed to use calm and encouraging tones of voice. Ratio was

maintained in the center as required by age.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. I was able to observe a diaper changing procedure and the required steps were followed. A copy of the diapering procedures postings were present by all changing stations with the exception of the young infant room which needs to be replaced. Good hand washing practices were in place with staff ensuring the children washed their hands following restroom use, and prior to eating. First aid kits were observed to contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. Over the counter medications were labeled and all medications were properly stored. Safe sleep practices were being followed in the center on the day of my visit although one crib sheet was observed to be too small and needs to be replaced with a properly fitted crib sheet.

Meals are prepared on-site and the kitchen area was observed to be clean. There was no indication of any insect or rodent infestation as evidenced by dead bugs, or droppings. Good food storage and handling procedures were observed during the time of my visit both in the kitchen, and classrooms. A menu is posted and followed and identifies a good variety of nutritious food options. Lunch was served during the time of my visit. Meals were served family style with the children portioning their own foods. The teachers did sit at the tables and ate with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

The playground has several areas with one for the daycare children which is fully enclosed by fencing and further divided into an area for infants and toddlers, and an area for older children. There is another playground for the formal preschool program children. Also adjacent to the playground space is the elementary school playground. In addition there is a large open grassy football field, and paved area where the children can play. All of the equipment was observed to be in good repair and properly installed. The daycare playground makes use of foam tiles for fall surfacing. An awning and mature trees provide shade.

Administrative records were reviewed and all required notices and postings were present. Random selections of both staff and child files were reviewed and compared to the self-audit maintained by the center. All files reviewed were found to contain all required documentation, and were consistent with the self-audit that identified the dates the documents were completed. Inspection logs and certificates were current and available for all required elements. The center handbooks have been previously updated and found to contain al required policies. When reviewing the updated policies some were minimal and should be expanded. This included the Incident Reporting policy which should include information on when an incident report should be completed for an injury, significant behavioral concerns, and sexualized behavioral acting out, and how the center will respond to major and minor injuries.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is the first full year that the center has been in the renovated building and the staff have continued to refine the layout of their classrooms, implement their curriculum, and provide a supportive program for the children.

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

None Cited

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 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.