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

Name of Center: WDM United Methodist Early Learning Preschool **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28368

Street: 720 Grand Ave **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 720 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Amy Borness **Phone Number:** 515-279-8897

On-Site Supervisor(s): Teresa Young **E-Mail:** aborness@wdmumc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-14-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-17-2023

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections be done at least every three years. The City of West Des Moines typically do these inspections annually.

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: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	12	65	0	85
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 5

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 09-25-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 9/25/23. The new director was present for the entire visit. The on-site supervisor was present for a portion of the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

West Des Moines United Methodist Early Learning Preschool is located in the educational wing of the church on the corner of Eighth Street and Grand Avenue in West Des Moines. The program serves children 18 months in age to five years in age during the school year. Most of the children enrolled are at least two years old. The center will accept 18 month old children if the child was at least 18 months old by September 1st. There are a couple of options parents can choose from for their child to attend depending on the age of their child. There are morning and afternoon classes every day with the exception of Friday when there are only morning classes. The program uses five classrooms (rooms 104, 108, 204, 208, 210) on two levels of the church and they use the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teachings.

The program is overseen by a Board of Directors made up of parents, church members, and church staff. Amy Borness is the new director of this program as of 7/2023. Amy has a Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working in child care and the school system. The on-site supervisor is Teresa Young. Teresa has been with the program since 1998 and is also the lead teacher in one of the classrooms. Both individuals meet the qualifications for their positions.

On the day of the visit, four classrooms were in session (the fifth classroom is an overflow room if needed). One classroom was outside on the playground. Another classroom had just sat down to eat the AM snack. In two other classrooms, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in the rooms. Staff and children were overheard visiting with each other and staff were spaced out and providing close supervision to children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is starting the IQ4K process (replaces QRS). The center also participates in QPPS as well as ECERS. The center also partners with the West Des Moines School District for Universal Preschool.

The center has an indoor play space for when weather does not permit outdoor play.

Communication between staff and parents is highly stressed. Staff meetings are held two times a month. Parent Teacher Conferences are held two times a year. There is one home visit scheduled a year for Pre-K children as well as an open house night at the preschool. In addition to the open house night, the center also puts on a science fair night and two music programs. Parents receive several newsletters/updates about their child and classroom each month.

The center has their own website as well as a Facebook page that provide additional information about the program.

Several tenured staff members work at the center.

The new director appears to be organized. She is also a participant in a local director meeting group in the area, has her NAEYC membership, and her NAC.

There is a secure entrance into the building.

The director and the on-site supervisor believe staff work well together. Staff are passionate about their jobs.

Within the past year, a new playground area and new playground structures were installed.

Enrollment remains steady.

This center has been in operation for 50 years.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: All children, regardless of age, need to have the name, address, and phone number listed for a doctor and a dentist.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one expired epipen in one of the classrooms. It was reported the parents are working on getting a new epipen. A doctor's note should be received stating the older, expired epipen can still be used in the meantime (with an end date also listed).

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.
The bolts along the new playground fence and gate need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are exposed. If/when capped, there also shouldn't be any gaps. There is also one bolt underneath the big climbing structure that needs to be capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 12/23/21 - 12/26/21. Radon levels in classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual boiler inspection expires on 12/31/23 so a new one will be due after that date.

As noted at previous visits, four and five year old children go on one walking field trip every year to the nearby elementary school and two field trips away from the center. Parents are responsible for getting their child to/from these two field trips away from the center.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

The director should double check the program's handbooks to make sure it is updated that parents provide sunscreen to their child as needed before taking their child to the program in the AM or PM.

*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.