

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

Name of Center: Asbury United Methodist Preschool **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18096

Street: 723 Bank St **City:** Webster City **Iowa** **Zip** 50595 **County:** Hamilton

Mailing Address: 723 Bank St, Webster City, IA, 50595

Director's Name: Brittney Clausen **Phone Number:** 515-832-5369

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** asburypreschool3@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-30-2025

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: 03-31-2025

Comments :

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			48		48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 05-19-2025

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 Asbury United Methodist Preschool on 04-30-25 where I met with center director Brittney Clausen. Brittney took over as the director of this program in 2020. Brittney is well qualified for the position with a BA in general studies, and prior experience in early child care and education. The program is located in the lower level of the Asbury United Methodist Church and operated under a board of directors as a non-profit center. The program provides pre-school programming only in three sessions with two classes for 4 year old children, and one for 3 year old children though only the 3 year old program is operated under DHS licensing. The 4 year old program is operated in conjunction with the public school under the 4 Year Old Preschool Grant for which the school system provides the lead teacher. There are currently 20 children enrolled in the 3 year old program served by Brittney as the lead, and an assistant. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The design and layout of the center, and general operation of the program remains the same as in prior visits. The program operates in a single classroom but also makes use of a large meeting room which is used as an indoor gym for large motor skill activities. The program does intend to add another classroom for the 2025-26 school year for another class of 3 year old children. That room was measured to have an overall useable floor space of 984 sq.ft. allowing for 28 children, but does have a curtain divider that if engaged would create two smaller spaces that would only allow for 26 children with 12 on one side, and 14 on the other. Restrooms are located down the hallway from the classroom and children are escorted to the restroom as needed. Windows along the exterior walls provide natural light, ventilation, a view of the outdoors, and one is also a designated emergency exit for both the existing, and expansion classroom. There is also a small pass-through kitchenette that provides secondary egress from the classroom into the meeting room used for large motor skill activities. All exits were maintained so that they were clear of obstruction. The room and building were observed to be clean and free of any safety concerns due to construction or maintenance. The room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, shelving, and play structure which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Each center was well stocked with toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted, and a parent newsletter is also provided which identifies the planned curriculum. The curriculum theme on the day of my visit was Mothers Day, and Flowers.

Good interactions were observed with the teachers being actively engaged with the children and implementing the planned activities. This included following the planned schedule and curriculum with moving from child directed center play, to group learning, music/movement, and a teacher lead craft activity. The teachers did join the children in their programming with moving around the classroom talking with the children about their play during center time, and also doing the activities of the music/movement segment. Good behavior management practices were observed with the teachers using positive approaches such as recognition/praise of appropriate behaviors, routines, transition activities, and guided problem solving when children had issues with peers.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. The teachers do have the children wash their hands upon arrival either being escorted to the bathroom by their parents, or by a teacher. Chemical cleaners, staff personal items, and other items that could be a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they are not accessible to children. A first aid kit is maintained in the classroom and contained materials necessary to address most common first aid needs are

present. Due to the limited hours of operation medications are not routinely administered but policies are in place should it become necessary in the future. The center did have allergy plans, and other treatment plans for children with identified concerns. Emergency medications (epi-pen) were stored where they were readily available but not accessible to children. One issue that was noted is that the center does have beans in an experience table. It was reviewed that these should not be used given that children under 4 years of age are still prone to mouthing items and beans do contain proteins that can have a toxic effect if ingested in their uncooked state.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The parents take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of appropriate snack options is provided. The center also maintains a list/menu of snacks that were provided. Snacks generally included options such as crackers, fresh fruit, cheese, yogurt, milk, and juice. Holiday and birthday celebrations were also documented for those days that non-credible items were provided as part of a celebration. A limited supply of snack items is maintained in the center to supplement as needed when this occurs. The snacks that were present were all prepackaged single serving items. The teachers do not eat with the children but do provide supervision at the tables.

The center does make use of a court yard area for outdoor play which is a grassy play space that has a sandbox and a shed where additional materials are stored. A preschool age climbing structure is present and makes of unitary foam tiles for fall surfacing. All equipment was observed to be in good repair. The playground is located next to an ally and privacy fencing has been installed to enclose the playground. As previously noted the center also has a large indoor area which can be used for large motor skill activities when weather conditions do not allow for outdoor play. A variety of toys and non-climbing structures such as tricycles, stepping blocks, tumbling mats, and other options were present for the children to play with in that area.

All required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Both staff files were reviewed and a renewed SING check, FBI background check is needed for Brittney, and a physical is needed for her assistant. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required elements. The center did complete a renewed long term exposure Radon test in January 2025 which showed an average level of 1.6 pCi/L which is well below the cutoff limit of 4.0. The center does not have a radon mitigation system.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Brittney identified that the program is planning for an expansion with the closure of another preschool program for the next school year.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

-- Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

-- Number not in compliance: 1

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 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.