

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

Name of Center: Sioux Center Christian School

Enrollment: 93

License ID No. 50969
(Reapplications)

Street: 630 1st Ave SE

City: Sioux Center

Iowa Zip 51250

County: Sioux

Mailing Address: 630 1st Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA, 51250

Director's Name: Rebecca Vander Werf

Phone Number: 712-722-0777

On-Site Supervisor(s):

E-Mail: rvanderwerf@siouxcenterchristian.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-09-2024

☒ **Licensing Visit**

☐ **Unannounced Visit**

☐ **Off Year Visit**

☐ **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application

☒

Re-Application

NA

Signed Application (470-0722) Received

☒

Yes

No

NA

Date Signed:

02-21-2024

FIRE INSPECTION

☒

State

Local

NA

Is Fire Inspection Approved?

☒

Yes

No

NA

Date Inspected:

08-23-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE:

☒

Child Care

Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)

Financial Type:

Profit

☒

Non-Profit

NA

Accreditation:

Accredited

NAEYC

NSACA

Other

☒

NA

Program Serves:

Infants (0-23 mo.)

2 Years

☒

Preschool-Age

☒

School-Age

Get-Well

Evening Care

Special Needs

SCHEDULE:

Year-round

☒

School-Year

Summer Only

HOURS:

Year-round

School-Year

Summer Only

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			17	122	139
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 04-01-2024 to 04-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew

Date: 04-15-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was done on 04-09-24 at Sioux Center Christian-4 Care Kids preschool and afterschool program. I met with Rebecca Vander Werf, director for the program. Ms Vander Werf has a BA in Elementary Education and many years working with children. The program offers a variety of programs for the children they serve. 4 Care Kids preschool childcare program started in August 2020. The program expanded their services beginning school year 2021 and serves preschool children(4/5 year olds) who are apart of a 1/2 day preschool program that are in need of childcare before and after preschool hours. The program serves the preschool kids for a morning session and an afternoon session. The program provides busing transportation and take or picks up children from their local 1/2 day preschool programs and transports them to their aftercare program. The children arrive at the school at 8:00am to 11:30am and they eat lunch then are transported to 1/2 day preschool and then bring back another preschool group for lunch and kids then stay until the end of the school day at 3:00pm. If needed the program also offers extended stay for preschoolers from 3:00pm to 5:30pm and combines with the school agers aftercare program. This occurs Monday thru Thursday and then on Fridays 4-Care provides childcare for preschool children all day from 8:00am to 5:00pm due to no preschool on Fridays.

Parents provide healthy snacks and the school provides hot lunch. Each child brings a water bottle which are cleaned daily. The children rest on mats which have a covering and center will wash bedding weekly. The program added school agers in February 2021 which increased capacity to 70. The school age program is K-5th grade and uses the cafeteria area. The school age program is only in the afternoon from 3:00-5:30pm Monday thru Friday. If there is no school then there are no programs. On Fridays there is also no classes for TK and Kindergartens so they offer childcare like the 4K kids on Fridays 8:00am to 5:00pm. Summer care program is called Tails and Trails for ages 5 to 11 years old for 9 weeks beginning 06-03-24 to 08-02-24. Summer program will have academics in the morning and field trips in the afternoon.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The center continues in cleaning toys daily that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, children's artwork and the alphabet. The center utilizes theme based Curriculum. The center started the program and opened at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

The 4 -Care program started out for just preschool childcare and has since added aftercare school agers, Kindercare on Fridays for TK and Kindergarteners, and summer care Tails and Trails. Preschoolers merge with the aftercare program at the end of the day. The program follows the Sioux Center Christian School District for weather related closures. If there is a two hour late start there is typically no morning preschool and then they would provide childcare for the preschool aftercare children. In 2023 the program added a few more rooms which increased capacity from 70 to 139.

Documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills and playground inspections were complete. Radon was completed and within normal range. Annual Furnace inspection was also completed. The center does not give any medication at this time.

The program is not on the food program but does follow it. Parents provide snacks for the children, however, the program provides lunch for the children. In the summer, children bring their own lunches. The program will need to make sure

lunches/snacks that children bring are healthy and are kept refrigerated to ensure proper food storage.

Fenced-in playground is next to the building which they share with the school. This playground has slides, trikes, balls, climbing equipment, and outside toys. Wood chips surrounds all the outdoor play equipment. They have access to an indoor gym during inclement weather. Playground has shade available. The school is adding onto their building so the school age playground has been taken down until after the addition is completed.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips

Sioux Center Christian buses children to and from the aftercare program. Field trips will only be done during summer care and they will use a school bus.

Goals of program are to adjust the school age hours from 3:30pm to 5:30pm to 3:30pm to 5:00pm beginning with the fall of 2024/2025 school year. Program is looking at getting on the IQ4K program as well as possibility to add early childcare starting with age 2 year old on up.

Strengths of the program is that staff are caring and their to meet the needs of children and families they serve. The program uses a play based learning program. Kids can be expressive in their play. Their curriculum is based on the children's interest. Staff work well as a team and have a good relationship with the families that they serve. Program communicates with their parents thru either texting or by using Bloomz app. The program follows ABA for discipline practices.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center has open communication with parents thru text or their Bloomz app.

Staff have experience working with children as most are paras with the school.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They actively played with the children, interacted with them at their level, provided praise and offered the children choices.

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 dental: 1

Information lacking: Information was missing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant confirming that those aspects that fall below standards have been corrected by 05-10-24.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center each 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.