Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Wee Learners

Provider No.: 28393

Address: 210 W Green, Winterset, IA, 50273

County: Madison

Director's Name: Barbara LaGrange

On-Site Supervisor: Kris Jacobsen

Phone Number: 5154735284

E-Mail: barb@lagrange.ws

HHS Visit Date: 09/15/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/19/2024

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

Health and Human Services

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	29	0	29
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 9/15/25. The owner/director and on-site supervisor were both present throughout this 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.

Wee Learners is a preschool program located in the First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset, IA. The preschool utilizes two classrooms on the main level of the church. The main entrance into the preschool area is located along a side entrance by the playground area. The preschool serves children ages three, four, and five years in age during the school year. Children attend either in the AM or PM, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and there are a couple of different options for times children can attend that parents can choose from. The preschool utilizes several curriculums that they use with children which include the Creative Learning Curriculum, Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum, Al's Pals, Sound Sensible, Everyday Mathematics, and Heggerty Curriculum. The preschool requires that all children be toilet trained (or mostly) before being enrolled.

Barb LaGrange is the owner/director of the preschool. Barb has been with Wee Learners since 2002 and the director/owner since 2006. Barb has her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education as well as several endorsements in Early Childhood Education. Kris Jacobsen is the on-site supervisor and assistant teacher. Kris has her Master’s Degree in Speech Pathology and an AA degree in Early Childhood Education. Kris has also worked at Wee Learners for many years.

During the visit, children were initially engaged in free-choice play throughout the different labeled learning stations in the main classroom. Some children were playing with blocks, some with manipulative toys, and some children were playing with the dramatic play toys. Later, children lined up to use the restroom and wash their hands before sitting down for snack. Staff were observed walking around the classroom and interacting with children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The preschool participates in QPPS. The director has her NAC membership and NAEYC.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The preschool continues to use Al's Pals to assist children with learning good social skills and making good choices.

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Communication with parents is highly stressed at the preschool. Parents get a monthly newsletter about all preschool events and happenings. Parents also get a specific, weekly report update on their child. Parent teacher conferences are held two times a year as well as one home visit a year for children. There is a family night outing held one time a year as well as an open house at the beginning of the year.

The program uses the electronic application See - Saw for further communication with parents.

Literacy testing is conducted for all children enrolled. Portfolios are kept on all children to track progress throughout the school year (identifying shapes, colors, writing/coloring skills, etc.).

The preschool conducts daily health and safety checklists.

The director is highly organized. Weekly staff meetings are held.

The classrooms are nicely organized. Learning stations are labeled.

There is a secure entrance into the building and classrooms.

The program has a lot of extra storage space.

Children again had a lot of options to choose from on the day of the visit.

Enrollment remains steady.

A new radon mitigation system was been installed in 2023.

Over the past year updates include new windows, door bells, and an AED device.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
The zip ties holding the program signage on the fence on the playground should be cut shorter.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last conducted 8/22/25 - 8/26/25. A new radon mitigation system was installed in 2023. Levels in the two classrooms this time came back below the 4.0 cutoff so the center can move to testing every five years if they choose. However, it is recommended they stay on the two-year testing plan at least one more time given past radon issues the program has had. Part of the higher radon levels in the past have been in part to the mitigation system not in place and the dirt basement floor.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 10/17/24 so it is again coming due soon.

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As previously noted, the center does not transport. The only field trips taken are walking field trips to local businesses. The center will also bring in agencies for presentations to the children from time to time throughout the school year.

Children either receive an AM snack or a PM snack depending on when they attend. The preschool sends out a list of credible food items per CACFP that parents can bring and then it is listed at one of the boards what could be the snack for any particular day.

Staff are uploading their trainings into I- Power and should continue to do so.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

Date: 09/15/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.