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

Name of Center: Grace Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 23 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30290

Street: 1407 W 5th St **City:** Storm Lake Iowa **Zip** 50588 **County:** Buena Vista

Mailing Address: 1407 W 5th St, Storm Lake, IA, 50588

Director's Name: Anne Mohr **Phone Number:** 712-732-5005

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** lutherangrace1951@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-27-2025

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

Date Inspected: 05-04-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: 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			24		24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-18-2025

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 Grace Lutheran Preschool program on 01-27-25 where I met with center director Anne Mohr. Anne is will qualified for the position having extensive experience and training in early childhood programming having been with this program since 2003. Julie Bonjes is the classroom assistant and started with the program at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year as a substitute, and full time assistant at the start of the 24-25 school year. The program is located in a single classroom in the lower level of the Grace Lutheran Church and is overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program provides preschool only programming in two sessions with one for 3 year old children, and the other for 4 year old children. There are currently 23 children enrolled between the two sessions served by 2 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The classroom arrangement and program operation remains the same as in previous reports. There is a secondary emergency exit that provides direct access to the outdoors. The exit was clear of obstruction and doorways opened freely and easily. Windows along the upper edge of the exterior walls provide ample natural light, a limited view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Restrooms are located down the main hallway and children are escorted to the bathrooms as needed. A sink is present in the classroom to allow for hand washing and food preparation activities. The classroom is a large open space with activity centers that are defined by the placement of furniture and play structures. All equipment in the classroom was in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The center does have a large dramatic play barn structure, and an outdoor climbing structure in the classroom. The climbing structure does make use of foam tiles that would meet CPSC Playground fall surfacing requirements. The room was observed to be clean with no concerns regarding maintenance noted. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum is posted on the parent board at the entrance to the classroom.

This continues to be a very strong program with a focus on helping children build school readiness skills. This includes the teachers not only engaging with the children in planned curriculum activities such small and large group teacher lead craft or reviews specific learning concepts identified in the planned curriculum, but also in more informal interactions. Examples include the teachers talking to the children as they engage in self-directed play asking questions to help the children explore their play, or reviewing learning concepts such as math, or patterns. The center uses a positive behavioral support approach to managing behavior and Anne and Julie both do an excellent job of implementing that approach. This includes the use of routines, transition activities, and recognition of positive behaviors. Both teachers use calm and encouraging tones of voice when speaking to the children. This approach resulted in a classroom where there were no observed behavioral concerns other than a few typical minor concerns where simple redirection was sufficient to modify the behavior.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. The teachers did ensure that children washed their hands as required when using restrooms, and prior to eating, but also at other times such as after blowing their nose. The center did provide instruction to children on good health practices such as covering their mouth/nose when coughing/sneezing. Children were escorted to the restrooms with staff providing supervision for restroom use and hand washing. The center first aid kit was well stocked with materials to address common first aid needs. The center does not routinely administer medications but policies are in place regarding the authorization, storage, administration, and documentation should it become necessary. The center did have allergy response plans for those children with identified

allergies.

The parents take it in turn to provide snacks and the center does maintain a limited supply of snack items to supplement as needed. A calendar of snack items that are actually served was maintained and generally showed that credible options were provided. A small refrigerator is available in the classroom to maintain cold holding temperatures. Good food storage practices were observed for both dry pantry and refrigerated items. The teachers do sit and eat with the children which provides supervision and models good social interactions and eating habits.

The center playground was reviewed and the pea gravel used for fall surfacing had developed a hardpan layer and needs to be aerated or supplemented to have at least 9 inches of loose material. The climbing structure is of wooden construction and while beginning to show its age did appear to be structurally sound. A steering wheel activity center of the structure was broken and needs to be removed or replaced. The program also makes use of the parking lot for a hard surface play area and has cones which can be placed to close off a designated area for play. Additional play items such as balls, dolly scooters, and other materials are available for the children to use. Shade is available from the building and trees.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices and postings were present in an area readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. Both staff files were reviewed and contained current information for all required documentation with the exception of Julie not having completed all required training within the first 90 days of employment. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has been very consistent and stable over the years and having developed a positive reputation in the community. Anne identified that the center already has a full roster of children that will be attending the 3 year old preschool class for the following year.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The fall surfacing has developed a hard pan layer. Children shall be restricted from use of elevating activity centers until such time that the fall surfacing has been aerated or supplemented to ensure a minimum of 9 inches of loose fill material. The broken steering wheel activity center needs to be replaced or removed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended 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 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.