Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Bridge Preschool

Provider No.: 28303

Address: 10025 NW 62nd Ave, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Tara Hartman

On-Site Supervisor: Meggan Boyle

Phone Number: 5159865867

E-Mail: tarahartman@thebridgejohnston.org

HHS Visit Date: 03/12/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2026 to 04/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/10/2026

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Johnston-Grimes Fire Dept Shaun Benberg-Fire Prevention Spec.

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

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
Friday		9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		17	46		63
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year visit was competed 3-28-25. The Director was present throughout the visit.

The Bridge Preschool has been in operation since the fall of 2006. This program provides early childhood education programming for children ages two to five. Tara Hartman became the director in June of 2019. Tara has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and worked at Meredith preschool for 7 years prior to becoming director as a preschool teacher. Tara meets qualifications to be the director; Meggan Boyle is the assistant director and meets the criteria.

The program offers sessions for two year old children either on W/F or T/Th from 9:15am to 11:25 am. The three year old class is offered on either a Tuesday/Thursday schedule or a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule from 9:10 am to 11:40 am. The four year old class is offered on a schedule of Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am. The preschool is no longer offering afternoon sessions. They have adopted a gradual drop off and pick up schedule for the sessions of preschool offered.

Room Observations/Activities: This program uses three main classrooms and also has a large indoor play area. The preschool uses the creative curriculum for lesson planning and school status application to communicate with parents. Rooms were observed to be nicely organized and offering a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers/toys. Staff were engaged in leading small group activities and children were content.

Nutrition Practices: A snack is offered in the morning.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Playground: There is a green space that is enclosed by chain link and has small play equipment.

Transportation/Field trips: NA

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has attained level I in IQ4K: Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve upon.

The center offers an online enrollment process and also has an intent to enroll for parents wishing to enroll their child in the future.

The staff are trained and educated, they either have a teaching certificate or an Associates degree. The staff are professional and work well together. There is longevity of staff at the preschool.

Staff are flexible and supportive of each other, they lean on each other and recognize each other's strengths. Staff care about the children.

The center is committed to providing quality programming to young children and getting them ready for kindergarten.

The center has a strong relationship with the church. The center and the church began conducting work groups which has lent to a stronger partnership and cohesiveness between the church and preschool. The preschool is an official ministry of the church.

The leadership team revised the coaching and evaluation process for staff performance evaluations which also allows for staff to complete a self-evaluation.

The center has a secure entrance.

The director conducts a weekly check in with staff, to go over any changes due to Covid-19 and just to check in and see how they are doing, and celebrate any good news. The director also meets with church staff weekly.

The teachers have created a shared document to help with dramatic play rotation through all three classrooms.

The director sent an outline of their accomplishments and goals:

Accomplishments:
? Selected as runner up Favorite Northwest Polk County Preschool by residents.
? Murals were painted on both sides of the outdoor play space to make it more inviting and celebrate our first director who passed and had donations given to the preschool.
? Purchased plates and cups for snack time so all items are durable to decrease waste.
? Teachers have reorganized and relabeled all books and dramatic play items for better sharing and donated items we do not use anymore.
? We had our first Christmas programs since Covid and they were very well attended.
? ClassTag is now being used for all communication with families. It has been a great addition to our program and keeps everything in one place.
? Building improvements
o New laminate flooring in the 4's classroom - summer 2022
o Fence extension for outdoor play area - fall 2022
Goals:
? Application for IQ4K
? New cleaning process for end of the year
? Possibly change the preschool name to match the church name change
? Add to our current sub list by reaching out to former parents

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were not aspects identified that fall below the standard of review.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The last test was completed in July of 2021. Radon levels at that time were below the 4.0 cutoff.
.

I discussed with the director their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. The director shared that behavior management techniques are discussed in monthly staff meetings. Additionally stress relief for teachers is discussed and the teacher are able to call upon the director for assistance or a brief time away if needed.

Date: 03/13/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.