

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

Name of Center: Teaching and Learning For Christ Preschool **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 39655

Street: 315 4th Ave NE **City:** Belmond Iowa **Zip** 50421 **County:** Wright

Mailing Address: PO Box 212, Belmond, IA, 50421

Director's Name: Lisa Lovgren **Phone Number:** 641-444-4149

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** tlcpreschool123@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 09-01-2021

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			27		27
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 11-18-2022

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 Teaching and Learning For Christ Preschool on 11-02-22 where I met with center director Lisa Lovgren. Lisa became the director in 2017 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience, education, and on-going training. The program is located in a single classroom in Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The center only provides preschool programming serving children 3 and 4 years of age. There are currently 15 children enrolled in the program served by 2 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The program is located in a single classroom on the lower level of the church that was constructed specifically for the preschool program. There are two exits on either side of the room both opening on stairwells that lead to direct exits. Windows are located along the upper edge of the exterior wall and provide natural light but no view or ventilation. The room is well lit with artificial lighting. Restroom facilities are available directly from the classroom so that children do not need to leave the room. A large basin sink with multiple spigots is located in the main classroom to facilitate hand washing. An additional sink is located in a counter and can be used for food preparation. A drinking fountain has also been installed. The room has an open floor plan with no issues noted with regard to construction or maintenance.

The classroom is arranged to have a large open area where the children can move and play. Activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures and are arranged so as not to create any blind areas. Activity centers include dramatic play, sensory tables, blocks, a discovery center, art/crafts, reading, and science, and tables for activities that require a flat stable surface and eating. The materials present were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. A daily schedule and copy of the planned curriculum were posted where it would be visible to parents and visitors. The planned curriculum was Thankfulness and the materials, and activities presented were reflective of this theme. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with both teachers being actively engaged with the children and presenting the planned curriculum. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers providing the children with direction, and making use of transition activities when moving from one task or area to another, and helping them with working through problem solving with peers when issues did arise.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. First aid kits are maintained in the center and were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center did not have any children taking any medications. Children with diagnosed allergies did have allergy response plans present in their files. Good hand washing practices were generally observed with the teachers washing their hands as needed, and directing the children to wash their hands before and after sand/water play, before snack, and after restroom use though one child was observed to use the restroom and not wash hands afterward. Good cleaning practices are in place with the center conducting a deep clean and disinfecting at the end of each day when the children are not present. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. As noted the program does serve children that include 3 year olds who may be prone to mouthing toys and objects. During the visit one of the play activities included the use of small magnets and the teachers did have a discussion with the children prior to allowing them to play that while they may look like candy they are not and they do not put them in their mouths.

Due to the limited hours of operation the center does not serve meals but snacks are provided. The parents do take it in turn to provide the snack and a list of suggested items is provided. It was noted that some snack items that had been provided included non-credible options as required by CACFP guidelines. A limited supply of snack items is maintained at the center to supplement if needed and good food storage and service practices were observed. The center does maintain a menu of items that are actually served but this was being written on a dry erase board. It was reviewed that these should be maintained on a paper copy given that the use of the dry erase board does not allow for maintaining the records if a concern of a possible food borne illness is raised and needs to be tracked.

The center has completed renovations of a new playground space. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing, and does not include any climbing structures. The playground does music, dramatic play, and art centers as well as riding and other toys the children the can play with. The space has a small paved side walk area, and the primary play space consists of an area covered by artificial grass. Shade is provided by the building and large mature trees. There is one area with a storage shed set in a recessed area created by the entry to the church. While the teachers have taken steps to cordon off that area it is still accessible and will need to be monitored for children who may seek to hide behind the shed.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in areas readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. All child files were found to contain all required documentation. Staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were current and available. The center handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This continues to be a program with a very strong focus on curriculum which also includes a faith based component. This has resulted in a very positive reputation in the community with the center having full enrollment and Lisa stated that there is consideration of adding another session.

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

None Cited.

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.

*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.