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

Name of Center: Alburnett Pirate Preschool **Enrollment:** 19 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50257

Street: 131 Roosevelt ST **City:** Alburnett Iowa **Zip** 52202 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: PO Box 400, Alburnett, IA, 52202

Director's Name: Bailey Wright **Phone Number:** 319-842-2261

On-Site Supervisor(s): Adeline Finley **E-Mail:** bwright@alburnettcsd.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-23-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 04-14-2022

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			19		19
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 11-21-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Alburnett Pirate Preschool commenced operations on 8/29/2022. This program previously operated and was licensed from fall 2018 through spring 2020. Alburnett Pirate Preschool is located inside Alburnett Elementary School which is part of the Alburnett Community School District. Pirate Preschool serves preschool-age children. Current enrollment is 19.

Alburnett Elementary School principal and director of Pirate Preschool is Bailey Wright. Ms. Wright has been the director since August 2023. Ms. Wright has a MA degree in PreK-12 principalship with a BA in elementary education, several years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. Lead 3yo preschool teacher is Adeline Finley. The 2024-2025 school-year marks Ms. Finley's 3rd year with the preschool.

On 9/23/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Alburnett Pirate Preschool provides an early childhood preschool option for 3-year-old children in the community. The program is located in a predominantly rural community.

According to the program's written family handbook, the mission of Alburnett Pirate Preschool "...is to form a partnership between school staff, parents, and community, is to prepare students to be lifelong learners who can become successful, productive future citizens. This will be accomplished by recognizing the value of each individual and promoting academic and personal growth in a challenging and caring preschool environment..."

Alburnett Pirate Preschool has the following website for families and persons in the community: http://alburnettcsd.org/.

Ms. Wright has been with the Alburnett Community School District for several years in various roles. The 2024-2025 school-year marks Ms. Wright's second year as director of the licensed 3yo preschool program. Management (e.g. school district, Ms. Wright, Ms. Finley) is seasoned as well as organized, and in turn, the program operates smoothly. Alburnett Pirate Preschool has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. The 3yo preschool lead teacher Ms. Finley has been with the program since fall 2022. The classroom assistant has also been with the program since October 2022. Ms. Finley discussed the co-planning that is done with the 4yo statewide preschool program and kindergarten staff as well as the continued volunteer support.

Alburnett Pirate Preschool is part of the Alburnett Community School District. The preschool operates under a (school) board of directors. Alburnett Pirate Preschool has a collaborative partnership with the school district. The school building and grounds are well-maintained. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. There is an AED on-site. The program has regular access to the school gymnasium for large gross motor activities.

The 3yo preschool classroom continues to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Since the last review, the preschool obtained some new materials including shelves, material storage areas and imaginative play table. Furnishings and materials are child accessible, in good repair and encourage innovation and playful learning. Alburnett Pirate Preschool uses a curriculum which incorporates a combination of Creative Curriculum, Handwriting without Tears, Read it Again, and teacher inspired ideas. Communication between children and staff is enhanced with verbal cues, picture cues, and sign language.

Alburnett Pirate Preschool has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are reviewed annually and updated as needed. The program has successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

Alburnett Pirate Preschool continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular preschool/school newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included parent/program conferences, seasonal activities, and open house. The preschool is included in the planning of the school's active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Pirate Preschool has much community support and encourages partnerships with local businesses.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning checklists, postings and sanitation reminders were observed in needed areas.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included apples. A special pajama wearing day was also noted as happening. Preschool activities observed were many including morning discussion (e.g. classroom rules review, weather outside, the day's events), math bucket work and outdoor large gross motor play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their playful learning experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals, finger plays during transition times) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. During a mass restroom break with hand washing prior to snack, staff was overheard encouraging good hand hygiene as well as talking with children about looking both ways before crossing the hallway to wait for their friends to finish up. Many words of encouragement could be heard throughout the monitoring visit. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their preschool day!

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The poured cushion surfacing on the outdoor playground, which was installed in 2022, clearly promotes outdoor play among preschool-age children of differing abilities. Please also consider installing additional inclusive outdoor play equipment further supporting preschool-age children's different levels of physical and social ability.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.