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

Name of Center: Wee Ones Christian Preschool **Enrollment:** 13 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22852

Street: 420 1st Ave NE **City:** Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50441 **County:** Franklin

Mailing Address: PO Box 236, Hampton, IA, 50441

Director's Name: Mary Mollenbeck **Phone Number:** 641-456-8471

On-Site Supervisor(s): Donna Uhlenhopp **E-Mail:** weeoneschristianpreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 03-06-2023

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: 03-11-2020

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			14		14
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-08-2023

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 Wee Ones Christian Preschool on 03-06-23 where I met with center director Mary Mollenbeck. Mary became the director beginning the 2020-2021 school year and is well qualified for the position having a BA, and prior experience in Early Childhood Education. The program is located in a single classroom at the Church Of The Living Word which used to be an elementary school in Hampton. The program is overseen by a board comprised of members of the host church. The program provides preschool programming only. The program normally offers 2 classes with a MTTH afternoon class for 4 year old children, and a TTH morning class for 3 year old children. However, due to low enrollment for the 3 year old class this year those children combined with the 4 year old class. There are currently 13 children enrolled in the program. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The layout of the building and classroom remain the same as in prior visits. The room was observed to be clean with no immediate concerns noted with regard to maintenance. Windows are located along the exterior wall providing natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and also serve as secondary emergency egress. Restrooms are located off the main corridor and children are escorted to the restroom as needed. There is a portable sink available in the classroom to facilitate hand washing if needed but it is not currently being used at this time. The room has a traditional school room design of a large open space that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement is such that it provides the children with ample room to move and play without creating any blind areas.

Activity centers included dramatic play, group learning, puzzles and board games, science, reading, music, media, art, blocks, and experience tables. Each center was well stocked with materials and toys that are appropriate to the ages of the children, and were observed to be in good repair. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were posted and followed. The current curriculum focus was Oceans, and specific learning concepts of the numbers 7 & 8, and letters S & O. The materials in the room had been changed to support the learning focus with sea shells in the science and experience center, books in the reading center, and art/craft activities. One issue that was noted is the center had just completed a learning focus of Deserts, and as part of that curriculum had a Leopard Gecko in the classroom. Mary did state that the children did not handle or feed the gecko. It was reviewed that while Licensing Standards do allow centers to have pets some animals are prohibited due to the risk for diseases that can be transmitted to humans. As a class, all reptiles are prohibited. This was reviewed with Mary who confirmed that she did plan to remove the gecko that day as they are starting the new lesson plan.

Good interactions were observed during the time of my visit. Both teachers were actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum and attending to the children's needs. This included joining the children in activities such as the music and movement activity, and playing with them in the gym. Supervision was provided with children being escorted to the restroom as needed, and teachers positioning one at the front and one at the back of the line when transitioning between locations. The program makes very strong use of a positive behavior support system. Both teachers did an excellent job of recognizing and praising positive behaviors of the children. This approach is even more effective given that the smaller size of the class results in a situation where the relationships between the children and teachers are very close and more characteristic of family or friends. Both Mary and Donna knew the children on a personal level so that as the children spoke about their families and home life both were able to relate to the children and the situations they spoke

of.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. A first aid kit was observed to have a good supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. The center does not routinely administer medications but does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. Allergies plans were available for children with identified allergies. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for the children to be out of the immediate area before using cleaning products. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children.

The program does not provide meals due to the limited time frames that the children are present but snacks are provided and a menu is posted. Good food storage practices were generally observed with all foods properly stored except one bag of cereal where the bag had been rolled shut and not placed in an air tight sealable food grade container as required. A copy of the planned menu was posted. The snack served on the day of my visit included string cheese, a granola bar, and water. The teachers did eat with the children to provide supervision, model good eating habits, and engage the children. Mary did talk with the children about where cheese comes from, and other animals that provide milk that is frequently used to make cheese such as goats.

The outdoor playground was reviewed and all work had been completed.. The center is using a manufactured woodchip product for fall surfacing which also meets ADA compliance requirements for handicapped accessibility. The wood chips have begun to compost, and compact such that the center should look to supplement the existing material. The issues regarding the fall zones for the swings being insufficient in the backswing continues to be present. Other areas available to the children include a large open field and a paved basketball court where the children can play outdoors. An indoor gymnasium is also available where they can play when the weather is not conducive to playing outdoors. Mature trees are present on the outdoor playground space to provide shade.

All required notices were posted in an area readily visible and accessible to parents. All required inspection certificates and logs were current and available with the exception of Radon testing. It was reported that retesting had been completed but the individual with the church that oversees the grounds and facilities was not available and that documentation could not be found. All staff and child files were reviewed. In reviewing the child files 4 did not have a copy of current physical. In reviewing staff files both Mary and Donna needed renewed Iowa SING background checks, and documentation of on-going professional development. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations

The center began using a new curriculum program, Making Reading Heavenly, which seeks to use a system of rules and phonics sounds related to reading and spelling words to help children learn and retain reading, spelling, and language skills.

The church did install a new controlled entry system to help secure the facilities.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Documentation of renewed Iowa SING background checks is needed for both staff.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
-- Number not in compliance: 2 Documentation of 6 hours of annual on-going professional development was not present in either file.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Documentation not available on the day of my visit.

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.