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

Name of Center: First Baptist Preschool **Enrollment:** 16 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25003

Street: 122 E Second St **City:** Washington Iowa **Zip** 52353 **County:** Washington

Mailing Address: 122 E Second St, Washington, IA, 52353

Director's Name: Denise DeLong **Phone Number:** 319-461-2534

On-Site Supervisor(s): none **E-Mail:** FBpreschoolWash@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-21-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-24-2025

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

Date Inspected: 03-23-2023

Comments : due every three years, conducted by Washington Fire Department, this report was held until an inspection was submitted 10/9/23

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*
Sunday			
Monday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Friday			
Saturday			

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			35		35
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

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: Jill Seibert **Date:** 06-20-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

First Baptist Preschool is located in the basement of First Baptist Church on the edge of downtown Washington. The preschool utilizes three classrooms and a large common area in the basement of the church. The preschool is a faith-based preschool located in the lower level of First Baptist Church.

The preschool is owned and operated by the church and is a mission of the church. The preschool offers a single four day per week early childhood educational program for three and four year old children. The director is Denise DeLong. Ms. DeLong has a BA degree in Mass Communications, a Child Development Associate degree, and has directed the preschool for the past 9 years. Since Denise has been the Director the preschool has had no formal complaints. Denise DeLong has 32 years' experience working with young children: Ms. DeLong also has 17 years of experience as a non-registered child care home provider and 15 years at the preschool. Ms. DeLong also has the CDA credential. The center has an aide. She was formerly employed at another licensed preschool in Washington that is now closed.

On 5/21/25, I made an unannounced licensing visit to First Baptist Preschool and met with director Denise DeLong and preschool staff. The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The west side entrance and front entrance are utilized by children and parents to enter the church in the morning. At the end of the program day children are picked up at the West entrance. The church doors are typically locked unless the pastor and church secretary are present.

The preschool philosophy is:
First Baptist Preschool helps children learn about themselves and their world by providing them opportunities to express themselves through learning centers. These centers may include music, creative art, dramatic play, block play, physical activities, concept and skill media, books, nature and biblical stories and moral lessons. In addition, group activities and free play help children learn to live with other children and adults through social interaction and sharing. The program should meet and stimulate a child's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth. The preschool follows curriculum and assessment established by Creative Curriculum.

Teachers in the early childhood program facilitate this development by providing activities that are developmentally appropriate and suit a child's individuality. They help provide a safe place where children feel trust, respect and a sense of belonging. Teachers guide children by using positive reinforcement, modeling appropriate behavior, and by teaching children problem-solving techniques to gain self-control and good self-esteem. Guidance techniques will include indirect guidance (classroom arrangement, adherence to a daily schedule, and classroom routines) and direct guidance (setting limits and reinforcing rules).

All staff members are over 18 years of age. No new employees are at the preschool this year.

First Baptist Preschool recognizes that parents and caregivers are vital to the success of a child's learning experience. Parent and caregiver involvement will be encouraged through the use of newsletters, electronic communication, daily visits, and learning centers and center activities.

Observation of Rooms:

Children move from classroom to classroom during the program. The preschool is located in three areas of the church basement - a large room for center play and large group lessons, a small group room, and another classroom for large muscle play. One of the classrooms has interest centers and is the area in which most of the early childhood educational program is provided, another classroom has a large table for craft and art activities and another has a large, open area for large group and gross motor activities.

The classrooms are bright, clean, attractive and equipped with a satisfactory variety of child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children. The main classroom is self-contained with phone, restroom, and a direct exit to the outdoors.

Preschool activities are based on developmentally appropriate practices as children learn through play. The month's themes are planned in advance and posted in the room. All equipment is in good repair. A large selection of toys are stored outside the room and rotated frequently. ·The main room is organized by several centers including an Alphabet Center, a sensory table, painting and drawing easels, and large tables are available for the children to spread out and do fine motor activities. The walls are decorated with appropriate learning material and the classroom is open and airy. Rooms are well-lit with natural light from several window wells and overhead lights. The second classroom also contains several activities and is neat and well organized. A bathroom is located just outside the room within hearing distance. The attached small group room is used for 40 minutes during the day. Another basement classroom has room for large muscle play and is used for 25 minutes a day. During gross motor activities each child should have at least 75 square feet of usable floor space. I observed a large rubber strength ball as well hula hoops and plastic climbing toys in the room for child activities. Staff must be able to visibly see children at all times and must be immediately present as to continue to provide constant supervision.

The curriculum utilized is Creative Curriculum. Interest centers available to the children include: blocks, children's literature, dramatic play, art, music and movement, toys and games, puzzles and small manipulatives, sensory table, puppet theater, science and discovery, and computer area. Centers include: writing center, craft area, puzzles and manipulatives, sensory, dramatic play, block area, and library/circle time. Typical routines include circle time, show and tell and snack.

Preschool Nutrition Practices Observed:

The preschool provides snacks to the children. Snack records indicate that minimum nutritional requirements are met. The preschool utilizes the church kitchen (also located in the basement) for snack storage and preparation if necessary. Snacks are kept in the church kitchen in a designated refrigerator and cupboard. No food was observed to be stored on the floor. No expired food items were noted. All food items were properly sealed. All areas in the kitchen were observed to be clean and tidy. A thermometers is present in the freezer unit. Safe food storage temperatures are below 40 degrees in the refrigerator and below zero degrees for frozen foods. No open food was found in the refrigerator.

Two food groups meeting CACFP guidelines should be served daily. Menus indicate CACFP is being followed. The staff and children dine family style during snack. When eating snack the helper sets the table, teacher doles out snack, and children pour their own drinks. I also read this month's snack calendar. The past two months snack calendars should be kept for review. Every day snacks served had been recorded. This is an improvement from years past. The preschool is not participating in the food program.

The Director is aware that a bleach water mix should be made daily or other approved products can also be used for sanitizing and disinfecting. Waste containers are covered.

Preschool Health and Safety:

A thorough inspection of the rooms were conducted. The program was in ratio during the visit. I observed the children in gross motor play and activities with staff indoors.

Medication procedures were reviewed. One medication needs a pharmacy label. The preschool does administer prescription or non-prescription medication when necessary. Medications should be stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact when on the premises. Medical documentation should be present. The center has sufficient forms for getting parent authorization and documentation of medications to be given if needed or prescribed. If a child becomes ill a designated quiet area is found in the small chairs area where the children can sit quietly and rest.

Regulations regarding storage and maintenance of a first aid kit were reviewed. The First Aid kit on site was labeled and was inaccessible to children. The preschool had the most recent first aid kit checklist.

I reviewed environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary environmental equipment. Radon testing was last completed in 2019. Results were below 4 pci/L. Updated radon testing is due every 5 years. The appliance inspection is currently overdue and the boiler report expires each March. It is due annually. A carbon-monoxide detector was observed on-site on the wall by the phone (next to the furnace room). It was battery operated so we discussed replacing the current detector with a non-battery operated detector. A lead paint assessment is necessary since the building was constructed prior to 1960. The Preschool was completely painted in 2006. Director DeLong updated the assessment last year noting no chipping paint was observed.

I observed all windows are in good repair, all wood, with no paint on the frames. A lead based paint assessment is present. Chipping paint should continue to be monitored. The preschool is on city water. As a result, a private analysis is not required.

General regulations regarding safety policies and procedures were reviewed. Two staff members are always present ensuring ratio is met. No staff employed at the preschool are under 18 years of age. All lower cabinets had child locks . Staff personal belongings were stored out of the children's reach on a high shelf. Cleaning supplies and other toxic materials were within reach but should be inaccessible during program hours. Ventilation is adequate and is provided through large vents at the top of the walls. Electrical outlets were covered. Some outlets are covered or child safe. Covers are available. A book shelf, filing cabinets and a television have been secured in years past to prevent toppling.

Emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado were reviewed. Tornado and Fire Drills should be completed monthly and had been per observation of documentation with the exception of September.

The program has no pets but two plants (a rubber tree, a palm in the classroom and pine) are in the foyer. Plants on the toxic list must be moved so that they are inaccessible.

Regulations regarding sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed. Food waste containers were covered.

Preschool staff are aware of regulations regarding staff and child hand washing. This worker observed hand washing practices, and staff encouraging children to use soap and water years past. The main restroom outside the preschool room contained hand washing posters. I observed an adequate amount of toileting supplies.

Preschool Playground:

This preschool does not have an outdoor play component. It should be noted, that when weather permits the children do go outside on organized walks. The Outdoor Child Care Weather Watch is consulted if outdoor play is questionable due to weather conditions.

Preschool Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The preschool takes field trips with transportation provided by a 15 passenger van owned by the church. Preschool staff drive the van. Both employees have copies of valid driver's licenses. The preschool visits the local Fire Station, hospital, the Presbyterian retirement center and the McCready Home.

Parents must sign a consent form enabling their child to go on field trips throughout the year. Typically the First Baptist Church passenger van (seat belts only) is used for the outings and daily transportation. Teacher vehicles should only be utilized if they have current inspections. Ms. DeLong indicated the van is serviced by Gretters Car Dealership every summer. If inspections are unavailable, Washington County Minibus services are utilized.

A first aid kit and emergency contacts should be taken each time the children leave the building. The Child Care Weather Watch should be utilized to determine if weather is safe for field trips due to weather conditions. Transportation ratios should be followed: Two adults are present when seven or more children over age three are on the premises. Two adults are present when seven or more children are being transported in one vehicle.

One staff for school transportation; only in center-owned vehicle with parent authorization. One additional staff when the center contracts for transportation for seven or more children for non-school related purposes. One additional staff when five or more children are involved in a center-sponsored activity away from the center.

Preschool Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior techniques, redirection, enforcement of

clear rules and limits, and short time out periods of age appropriate length.

Regulations regarding required notices and postings were reviewed. Required postings were observed on the bulletin board including the Preschool License, Center Consultant Information, a Mandatory Reporter posting and a class schedule. Emergency numbers for Fire, Police, and Poison Control were posted as was the centers contact information near the phone. Incident/Accident reports are kept in the child files. A No Smoking sign that is posted on the glass door entry way with IDPH website and telephone number. No Smoking signs should be at each entry and exit that children arrive or depart from. Evacuation maps have been added to the restroom and to the adjoining preschool room. Any other areas of the church the preschool uses should have emergency evacuation maps.

The preschool Director and I briefly reviewed required written policies provided to families in the form of a center handbook. Emergency medical and dental procedures are written and well defined. It also contained an unlimited access policy. A Communicable Disease Notice was also available in the handbook if necessary. The Center does have a biting policy which is available in the Center handbook. Evacuation of immobile child and handling of bodily fluids are also present.

Child files including child physicals, child immunizations medical and dental information and pick up/emergency authorizations are reviewed annually on the visit. All child immunization cards and physicals are reviewed. Carol Detweiler, the Washington Co. Health Public Health Nurse conducted an immunization audit annually.

Staff files including CPR/First Aid (due every two years), Essentials training is complete for both employees. Mandatory Reporter training due every three years, and professional development are also reviewed annually. Updated professional development training is due annually.

Fingerprints (due every 4 years) and Iowa Criminal History Background checks (due every 2 years) for staff were reviewed. Volunteers sign a statement including health status, awareness of mandatory reporting responsibilities and criminal history status. Staff physicals due every three years and signed statement of child abuse/criminal convictions are reviewed.

An emergency preparedness plan is present. Staff are trained on it annually. They signed and dated acknowledgement of such, but are behind this year.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool sends a monthly newsletter to parents.

Staff have utilized the TEACH program to achieve extra education in recent years.

The preschool provides dental screening and fluoride varnish services to the children in cooperation with Washington County Department of Public Health.

Preschool ratio is one of the best noted in Iowa Preschools.

Parent teacher conferences are held mid-year.

The preschool has been operational for 40 years without a formal complain

INTERACTIONS:

- What does the director do to ensure positive social interactions occur between children and staff?

The Director reports: The director sets an example for a conversational teaching style and models appropriate ways to correct behavior using PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) techniques. The director and staff member (just one) consult often on how to engage with individual students. What works for one child may not work for all. Together they identify children who need more positive interactions with staff.

- Evidence of positive interactions? (role playing, sing, read together, and more).

The Director reports: At the time of the licencor's visit, the director was leading a music and movement time/Bible devotion with half of the group, while the other half of the group was doing indoor large muscle play. Both teachers were actively involved with the children.

- Are there other observations about interactions worthy of reporting?

The Director reports: The children who were participating in the music and movement activities were exceptionally attentive to their teacher during the licencor's visit. Usually such a visit would be distracting and cause a lack of attention or invite children to talk out of turn. The students were well-managed and respectful.

WORKFORCE STABILITY:

- What does the director do to recruit amazing staff?

The director reports her and co-teacher have a very good reputation in Washington and both are well-known for running a quality preschool and being exceptional substitute teachers in the school district. Neither employee (there are only two) have plans to quit, but if they were, the reputation of the school has encouraged others to express interest in continuing the mission there, so finding replacement teachers would not be hard.

- What does the director do to maintain amazing staff?

The Director reports: The work at this preschool is a mission and not a JOB. To maintain this philosophy, the director uses: prayer (that God will continue to bless the work and provide amazing staff); a team-teaching attitude; and models a spirit of joy that learning and teaching is FUN.

WORKFORCE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- What does the director do to help staff realize the opportunities for greatness as a child care provider? How does the "it factor" get established – more than providing supervision.

The Director reports: The director has many years of experience working with children (17 years as a home provider, 12 years as a preschool teacher, and 30 years total in youth ministry). This wealth of knowledge is shared often with the co-teacher, since she knows from experience what works and what does not. She also encourages input from the co-teacher and supports trying new ideas. Greatness is attained through trial and error, and teachers (just like their students) learn from their past experiences. The director realizes that the "It-Factor" (communication and discipline and great relationships with young children) is a skill that can be modeled and taught through daily reflection with the co-teacher.

In addition, First Baptist Preschool's "It-Factor" has been earned by it's adherence to Christ-based curriculum (they are the only Christian preschool in a Washington), and by the positive referrals from pleased parents. It is the goal of the director and co-teacher to exceed the family's expectations and develop spiritual values in their students, as well as social, emotional, and cognitive development.

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

1. 109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Number not in compliance: 2 The Director states they will be getting the hours over the summer months.

2. 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: 6 The Director states she will ask parents for new physicals when school resumes in the fall.

3. 109.10(12)d: Vehicles that are owned or leased by the center shall receive regular maintenance and inspection according to manufacturer-recommended guidelines for vehicle and tire maintenance and inspection. The Director agreed to procure an inspection.

4. 109.10(15)c: Center shall develop procedures for annual staff and volunteer training on emergency plans. Both staff agreed to review training on emergency plans and sign and date acknowledgement of such.

5. 109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. The Director agreed to secure a new fuel burning appliances inspection.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing. Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM. Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children. Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.

Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap. Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles. Concern: the slide needs fall surfacing beneath it

6. 109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking. Some snacks served regularly do not meet CACFP guidelines (granola bars).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this preschool remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct above noted deficiencies and continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Prior to HHS visits each center typically contacts CCR&R to go over the Child Care Licensing Checklist to avoid violations. CCR&R offers low- or no-cost training designed to help early childhood professionals meet registration requirements and become more successful in developing skills for working with children and families. Iowa Professional Workforce Registry (i-PoWeR) is an online tool where child care professionals can locate and enroll for Department of Human Services (HHS) approved professional development.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) has a Child Care Center Handbook to help centers navigate through the licensing process. The handbook is a helpful document for centers that gives information on CCR&R, staff to child ratios, training, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), parent referrals, child care assistance, Quality Rating System (QRS) and more. CCR&R provides training and consultation services that support the child care provider's ability to achieve and maintain regulatory status in good standing and work to achieve and maintain performance at higher quality levels in Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS). Tabitha Copeland is the area CCR&R Consultant. She stated, "Last time I was on-site was 10-31-24 for IQ4K things. I have sent general support a her request via email regarding program things like training and finger printing requirements. I have routinely offered visits to help with Site book, paperwork etc. but she has felt that she has it handled. I have tried to reach her since you mentioned she would be open to assistance with paperwork with no luck but it is the summer now so I will try again late August."

The Director may also consult with Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants (CCNC) are Registered Nurses who provide on-site consultation, training, and technical assistance to early childhood care and education providers. Child care and early education businesses may call or send questions to a CCNC about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. HHS recommends that all licensed preschools participate and collaborate with both agencies and resources offered. Toni Krana is the area CCNC. This past year she provided them with with information on a serious injury they had last Sept.

*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.