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

Name of Center: Grundy Community Preschool **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 34186

Street: 1001 8th St **City:** Grundy Center Iowa **Zip** 50638 **County:** Grundy

Mailing Address: 1001 8th St, Grundy Center, IA, 50638

Director's Name: Kim Brower **Phone Number:** 319-825-6257

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rhonda Kruger **E-Mail:** rkruger@spartanpride.net

Date(s) of Visit: 09-07-2023

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: 04-05-2023

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			58		58
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-20-2023

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 Grundy Community Preschool on 09-07-23 where I met with on-site supervisor Rhonda Kruger. The program is partnered with the Grundy Center Child Care overseen by Kim Brower as the program director and Ronda Kruger as the on-site supervisor. Rhonda is well qualified for the position having not only a teaching degree but also having been working in early childhood care and education for the past 20+ years. The program is located in the former elementary school building and now makes use of three rooms. The program provides preschool programming only serving children 3 and 4 years of age. There are 6 teachers present with three leads, Rhonda Kruger, Kristy Droll, and Salina Ross, and each also has an assistant teacher. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during this visit.

The program has returned to the old elementary school building which just completed a substantial renovation project. The program is now making use of 3 classrooms on the upper level of the building. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to maintenance. Two of the classrooms have windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The room used by Salina is an interior room which has no windows and makes use of artificial lighting. Each classroom has restroom facilities available directly accessible from the classrooms. Each also has additional sinks in the room which can be used for hand washing. The classrooms for Rhonda and Kristy also have smaller spaces located off the main classrooms that can be used for 1:1 programming. An intervening door also allows for secondary emergency egress but the building also had fire suppression sprinklers.

Each classrooms makes use of furniture, shelves, and play structures to define activity centers and a teacher work desk. The materials and centers are arranged so as not to create any blind areas and provide the children with ample room to move and play. Activity centers include options such as large/small manipulatives, dramatic play, math/science, music/media, art/crafts, puzzles/games, sand/water play, and group learning. Each center had a supply of materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. The program uses the same learning theme for each classroom and the focus was Back To School. The materials and activities did reflect this. Good interactions were observed with the teachers presenting the planned curriculum or otherwise attending to the children's needs. Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers using positive recognition, and redirection to encourage appropriate behavior.

Good health and safety policies and practices were observed on the day of my visit. The teachers did ensure that the children washed their hands as needed and that they did so in an effective manner. When using chemical cleaners the staff would wait until the children were engaged in a group activity away from the areas being cleaned. There were no children that were taking any medications. Children with diagnosed allergies did have allergy response plans present in their files. First aid kits are maintained and contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are kept in storage where the children would not have access.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Snacks are provided by parents and the center does maintain a limited supply of snack items to supplement as needed to ensure that nutritional content requirements

are met. Good food storage and service practices were generally observed but not all food items had been placed in air tight sealable food grader containers after the original packaging seal had been broken. In addition the refrigerator in Salina's classroom needed a thermometer, and also needed to be secured to the stand it was on so as not to be a topple hazard. A list of served items was maintained. The teachers did wash their hands before handling food and food service items. Supervision was provided at the table while the children were eating.

The center has several playground spaces available but the preschool program makes use of one fenced playground space that has a climbing structure, swings, sandboxes, and other equipment for the children to play with. Fall surfacing includes an area of stabilized rubber mulch beneath the climbing structure, and loose rubber mulch in other areas. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the developmental levels of the children. Shade is provided by the play structures, and large trees that are located in an attached grassy area.

A review of administrative records found that all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A review of staff files found all required information and documentation to be present in each file for all regular staff. A random selection of child files were reviewed for each classroom and contained all required contact information. The program is still within the first 30 day grace period to obtain a current physical for each child. All required inspection certificates and logs were available and current

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center completed a major renovation that has updated the space and made for a more engaging environment for the children. The access to restrooms directly from the classroom also improves the safety and continuity of programming as children do not have be escorted to restrooms when needed.

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

109.15(5)a: Sufficient refrigeration is provided appropriate to perishable food.
-- Food items were not properly stored. All food items must be stored in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal has been broken. All refrigerator/freezer units must have a thermometer to ensure proper cold holding temperatures are maintained. The refrigerator unit needs to be secured so as not to be a topple hazard.

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.