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

Name of Center: Noah's Ark Preschool **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25043

Street: 6455 E Ave NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52405 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 6455 E Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52405

Director's Name: Kristine Crowther **Phone Number:** 319-396-3125

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kristine Crowther **E-Mail:** Office@noahsarkcr.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-12-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-01-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			50		50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2021 to 11-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 11-10-2022

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Noah's Ark Preschool is located inside Cedar Hills Christian Church and is governed by a board of directors. The program has been in operation since 1969 and is currently celebrating their 53rd year of providing education to preschool age children. Noah's Ark Preschool is a non-profit program that offers many early learning options to help meet the needs of children and families in the community. The program offers part-time preschool, full-time preschool, academic-year early-bird learning, academic-year lunch bunch learning, and summer camp experience for children age 3 to 5-years-old.

The director of Noah's Ark Preschool is Kristine Crowther. Ms. Crowther has been the director since summer, 2019. Ms. Crowther has a BS degree in elementary education, over 9 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 10/12/22, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Noah's Ark Preschool offers a variety of educational opportunities (part-time preschool, full-time preschool, academic-year early-bird learning, academic-year lunch bunch learning, and summer camp experience) to help meet the needs of families and children. Lunch bunch programming offers children an option to extend their day's preschool experience through sharing a meal and participating in further enrichment activities (e.g. dice games, board games, further skill work).

The year 2022 marks the 53rd year Noah's Ark Preschool has been providing education to preschool-age children throughout the community. Congratulations on celebrating 53 years!

Noah's Ark Preschool's purpose is "...to provide a nurturing supportive leaning environment grounded in Christian values. We help facilitate Kindergarten readiness by building self-esteem in your child and developing skills for later, more formalized socialization..."

Noah's Ark Preschool has the following website for families and the community to gain more information about the program: http://www.noahsarkcr.org/. The program also has a private social media page for families with enrolled children.

Director/on-site supervisor Ms. Crowther has been the director since summer, 2019. Ms. Crowther is organized, and in turn, the program operates smoothly. Ms. Crowther has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Ms. Crowther and her seasoned team of staff are knowledgeable of licensing requirements as well as their own policies and procedures. Staff are celebrating 12 years, 8 years, 3 years and 2 years employment with Noah's Ark Preschool. Ms. Crowther described their staff as "...outstanding...love the kids and choose to teach because of them...they help each other out and want the children to bring the fun they are learning home with them..."

Noah's Ark Preschool has been in their current location inside Cedar Hills Christian Church since 1998. The preschool is a

ministry of Cedar Hills Christian Church and governed by it's Board of Education (e.g. church members, parents preschool staff). Church administration, church custodial staff, and the board help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The property is spacious, sanitary, and well-maintained. The space is ADA accessible and an AED machine is on-site. Ms. Crowther discussed the great partnership between the preschool, custodial staff, and a group of church ladies who offer volunteer assistance throughout the year.

Noah's Ark Preschool has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The preschool has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County historic flood, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2019 pandemic.

Noah's Ark Preschool continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has an organized parent-staff/program communication center, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, has an established social media page for families, and supports family programming activities.

Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Materials are accessible to children. Curriculum provides skills consistent with kindergarten readiness, lengthening attention span, enhancing small/large motor skills, increasing social/emotional growth, and promoting social graces. Additional enrichment activities are provided for lunch bunch preschoolers. Recent enrichments have included book readings with a linked skill craft (e.g. apples, leaves, owls, watercolors, windsock). The program offers a variety of program/family activities including preschool-family conferences, child progress reports, an open house, preschool graduation celebration, guest speaker events, holiday programs, community giving back opportunities (e.g. Operation Christmas Child Shoebox, Food Pantry), and fundraising activities (e.g. Papa Murphy's Nights).

Noah's Ark Preschool collaborates well with community agencies including the local school district, early access persons, CCR&R, and health professionals.

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. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. Staff encouraged children to "catch coughs" and "catch sneezes" in elbows. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Daily cleaning reminders and checklists were observed to be posted in various areas.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. The area of study included apples. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, skills projects) that encouraged innovative play and learning. Classroom activities included book reading, counting/sorting, group circle discussion (e.g. prayer, good morning song, question of the day, calendar work, Pledge of Allegiance, apple life cycle discussion), and skilled play (e.g. craft, writing work). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their preschool experiences. Routine transitions worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. One staff was overheard saying "...I'm so glad you are here today as you bring much sunshine to the room..." as children danced and sang along to "Walking on Sunshine. Another staff was overheard saying "...it's okay, you don't need to erase...we can make a mistake and try it differently..." Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day as evidenced by engagement, smiles and laughter.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program's license remains in full status. 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.