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

Name of Center: TLC Preschool **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25168

Street: 1002 E 13th St **City:** Vinton Iowa **Zip** 52349 **County:** Benton

Mailing Address: 1002 E 13th St, Vinton, IA, 52349

Director's Name: Gail Gerber **Phone Number:** 319-472-5571

On-Site Supervisor(s): Teresa Scheel **E-Mail:** tlcpreschoolvinton@yahoo.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-19-2021

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-13-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/13/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to TLC Preschool in Vinton. I met with Gail Gerber, the director and lead teacher for the four-year-old preschool class. Ms. Gerber has a BA in elementary education and a MA in elementary education. She has also taken early childhood education courses. Ms. Gerber has been the director since 2000. She has fifty years of experience in teaching. Teresa Scheel is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher in the three-year-old preschool class. Ms. Scheel started in August 2006. Betty Cayton is the assistant in the four-year-old room. Jessie Kimm is the assistant in the three-year-old room.

TLC Preschool is located inside Trinity Lutheran Church. The program operates under a board of directors that includes five members from Trinity Lutheran Church congregation and a parent member form the threes and four's classes. The program serves children ages three through five years old. The program offers a four-year-old preschool class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-11:30 am. It offers a three-year-old preschool class on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30 am and 12:30-3:30 pm. There are currently 30 children enrolled.

The preschool primarily operates out of one classroom but also have use of a small room across from the primary room for one on one work or small group activities, such as writing in journals. Windows provide natural lighting. The primary room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

There is a sink located in the classroom. You must post handwashing procedures in this area. There is a bathroom in the classroom with one toilet. The program also has use of a bathroom down the hall from them with two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the church.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum and a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. They also incorporate Bible stories in lessons. The pastor visits the children each Wednesday to tell a Bible story. The preschool offers a Christian environment. Constant repetition and review are used to teach material. Weekly newsletters are provided to the four-year-old parents and monthly newsletters are provided to the three-year-old parents. Ms. Gerber includes activities to do as a family, for example take a nature walk. They provide parent and teacher conferences in November and March for both classes. Twice each month the four-year-old class makes the snack as part of an activity that coincides with their theme. They call this TLC Chefs. At Thanksgiving time both classes prepare a feast.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2021 and must be repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. Ms. Gerber has purchased radon kits to complete this month. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were

noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the small classroom across from the primary room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/19/21.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The parents provide the snack for the children and snacks are documented on a calendar. The program provides creditable snack options for the parents in their handbook. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. No dishwashing is required, as disposable products are used. There is a refrigerator on site and a thermometer was present. The children eat snack in their classroom.

The center uses Thieves to clean the tables and Clorox Disinfecting Wipes to sanitize the food tables.

There is a fenced in playground. There are two separate areas for fall surfacing and woodchips are used. In one area there is two pieces of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. In the second area there are swings. There is a grassy area for children. There is a caterpillar tunnel, dramatic play equipment, sensory tables and a basketball hoop. Tress provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance of the church. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to have great teamwork with one another. Staff members provided the children with reminders to wash their hands and showed them how to do it properly. Staff members provided the children with praise and had fun activities to teach the children about colors. The children were provided with choices. The pastor visited on the day of my visit and the children appeared to enjoy this. Staff members sat with the children while they ate snack to supervise and assist as necessary. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool class is a mission of the church. Church members and the community provide a lot of support to the program. The church holds fundraisers to support the preschool program.

The pastor visits the four-year-old preschool class every Wednesday and they are trying to plan for him to visit the three-year-old class.

The preschool program offers scholarships to families with a need.

Ms. Kimm states she was once a parent who sent her children to the preschool program and now as a teacher, she can say the staff members are amazing.

Ms. Kimm states the smaller class size allows more one on one time with the children to prepare them for the big school.

Ms. Gerber states they have terrific teacher support.

TLC Preschool collaborates with the local school district so that children can attend the voluntary statewide four-year-old preschool program and the TLC Preschool program. The school district provides a bus to pick the children up from TLC and transport them to the elementary school.

TLC staff hosts an orientation, family meet and greet before school.

The four-year-old class make their own snack twice each month. The snack coincides with the theme.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.