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

Name of Center: West Fork Preschool-Rockwell **Enrollment:** 28 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38565

Street: 210 S 2nd Street **City:** Rockwell Iowa **Zip** 50469 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: PO Box 60, Rockwell, IA, 50469

Director's Name: Ashley Flatebo (principal) **Phone Number:** 641-822-3236

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** ashley.flatebo@westforkschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-21-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-15-2022

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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			42		42
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-05-2025

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An announced annual visit was made to West Fork Preschool - Rockwell center on 02-21-25. Ashley Flatebo is the school principal and also acts as the director of the program. The center is operated as a non-profit program and is overseen by the school board. The program is located in 2 classrooms in the Rockwell Elementary school. The classrooms are identified by the lead teacher for each room, Mrs. Andrea Engh, and Mrs. Alexis Hansen. Preschool is offered in four sessions with, and two for children enrolled in the 3 year old preschool programing which is operated under DHS Licensing, and two classes for 4 year old children under the statewide voluntary grant overseen by the Department of Education. There are currently 28 children enrolled in the 3 year old classes with 14 in each class. The center also provides after school programming for school age children which is open to all children enrolled in the school though only about 10 children attend on any given day. The after school program is operated out of the school cafeteria.

The school completed construction of a new wing that now houses the preschool programming. The preschool program makes use of 2 rooms that share a connected pass-through bathroom. The sink uses a large basin with several spigots that all make use of hands free mixer valves to promote hygiene and ensure that water temperatures do not exceed safe levels. Additional sinks are available in the classrooms. Both rooms have secondary exits providing direct egress to the outdoors. The rooms are also reinforced and serve as emergency storm shelters for the school. Reinforced sealed windows along the exterior walls provide natural light and a view but not ventilation. Both rooms were observed to be clean with no concerns regarding construction or maintenance. Both rooms have a large open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement of the activity centers is such that they do not create any blind areas. Each activity center had a good variety of toys and materials that were appropriate to the ages of the children present.

A copy of the planned schedule was posted for each classroom, but a copy of the planned curriculum was not. Information about the planned curriculum focus themes and other information is provided to parents in a newsletter, and via a communication application but a copy of the planned curriculum or newsletter does need to be posted. Despite not having a copy of the curriculum posted it was obvious that one had been developed and was being implemented. This included both classes moving through the planned schedule of large motor play in the gym, teacher lead small group and large group activities, and lunch. The small group activity consisted of a simple weaving project. Each of the teachers was actively engaged with the children throughout the time of the visit. During the large motor play in the gym the teachers were positioned in different areas that allowed them to provide supervision, and this was continued in classrooms with the teachers moving about the room talking to the children and helping them with their activities. The school does make use of positive behavior supports to reduce the occurrence of behavioral problems with the use of routines, assigned student tasks, transition activities, praise, and simple redirection. During the visit one issue that was observed was when the children were returning to the classrooms from the gym one child refused to leave. The teachers did start with encouraging the child to join the class but as the child continued to refuse the teacher did eventually pick the child up and carry the child to the classroom where the child did engage. While this action is not prohibited it is not recommended given the potential for injury to children, and or staff that can result from a non-compliant child struggling and fighting

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. While the school

custodial staff are responsible for the general cleaning and upkeep of the facilities the teachers were observed to clean as necessary such as sanitizing tables. The school does use a commercially produced product that that is provided in concentrate and diluted for use in spray bottles. When reading the label directions for that product it does identify that a potable water rinse is required after application which the classroom teachers were not aware of and so were not doing. When using chemical cleaners the teachers did wait for the children to be engaged in activities in other areas. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other things that could present a safety concern to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible. The program makes use of the school nurse to store and administer medications and attend to first aid needs but again the teachers do attend to minor issues such as a child that wanted a band-aid for an itchy area of dry skin. Limited first aid kits are maintained in the classrooms for use on the playground and to address minor first aid needs. Hand washing practices were mixed in that the teachers did ensure that the children washed their hands following restroom use, however the children did not wash their hands immediately prior to lunch service. When this was discussed with the teacher it was reported that they had washed their hands however it was pointed out that the activity in the classroom prior to going to lunch involved the children sitting on the floor touching the floor, their shoes, and each other while the teacher read a story.

Due to the limited hours of operation for the 3 year old preschool classes, and the after school programming meals are not served but snacks are provided. The snacks are served in the programming areas used by each class. The snacks are provided by the program from the school cafeteria. Good food handling and service practices were observed. Supervision is provided at the tables when the children were eating. On the day of my visit I was able to observe the meal service for the 4 year old children which eat in the school cafeteria. The meals are pre-portioned by the cafeteria staff and included an option of pizza or salad with chicken, apples, broccoli, and milk. The program has changed to providing low fat skim or 1% non-flavored milk for meals and snacks. The teachers did sit at the tables and ate with the children to provide supervision and model good eating habits.

In addition to the construction of a new preschool wing, the school has also constructed a new preschool playground area. The area is located across the street from the building and is enclosed by chain link fencing. The space includes a new climbing structure which used a unitary pour in place fall surfacing. There is additional paved and green space available for other play activities.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible and visible to all parents and visitors. All child files were found to contain all required documentation with the exception of 2 files that needed an updated physical. Staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. It is noted that the new preschool wing has a separate foundation, and ventilation system from the main school building given that it is new construction, and also as part of the self-contained aspect of being an emergency storm shelter. While the main school building does have a radon mitigation system the preschool wing does not and testing in that wing did show levels below the maximum allowable cutoff limit of 4.0 pCi/L. Given the measured levels and separation of that wing retesting would need to be conducted every 5 years. There was a question on if the fire/emergency detection and alarm system has an integrated carbon monoxide detection monitor or not and the school superintendent stated he would verify if it did, and if not would acquire a stand alone detection unit for that wing.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to exceed Licensing Standards and implement best practice recommendations. The program is rated as a Level 4 out of a possible 5 level scale with Level 5 being the highest attainable endorsement.

The center did complete several large scale renovations with the construction of the preschool wing, and the preschool playground.

The center has received grants to acquire new furnishing and materials for the preschool program.

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

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: 2

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands

shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- Children's hands were not washed immediately prior to meal service with children being observed to be sitting on the floor and then leaving to go to lunch.

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.