

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

Name of Center: Wee Saints Day Care **Enrollment:** 83 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 22966

Street: 122 W 8th ST **City:** Saint Ansgar **Iowa Zip:** 50472 **County:** Mitchell

Mailing Address: PO Box 158, Saint Ansgar, IA, 50472

Director's Name: Rose Minnis **Phone Number:** 641-713-4652

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rose Minnis **E-Mail:** weesaints@myomnitel.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-14-2020

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: 09-24-2019

Comments : Compliance on 09-19-16

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age
Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	29	11	11	27	78
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 07-01-2020 to 07-01-2022
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 07-27-2020

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual licensing visit was made to Wee Saints Day Care on 07-14-20 where I met with Rose Minnis, the center director. Ms. Minnis has been employed by Wee Saints Day Care since 1997 and she has been the director since November 2000. Ms. Minnis has an AA in elementary education from NIACC in Mason City. The program is located in a free standing building in St. Ansgar. The center is operated as non-profit program overseen by a board of directors. The center daycare programming and preschool programming to infants through school age children. There are currently 83 children enrolled in the program served by 16 staff.

The program makes use of several classrooms based on age. Each room observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns due to maintenance. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural lighting and view of the outdoors. Restrooms are located off common hallways with additional sinks in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room has a secondary exit from the room. It was noted that fire and tornado evacuation signs that include both diagram and written instructions were not present by each exit from all programming spaces.

Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of shelving, play structures, and furniture. The arrangement in each room is such that it does not create any blind areas and provides the children with room to play. Each room had a good variety of toys and materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. It was noted in the infant room that mobiles were present on some cribs. Safe Sleep practices require these to be removed even for children that are not yet able to stand. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were posted. Good interactions were observed with the staff being actively engaged with the children and attending to their needs.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed on the day of my visit. The center has implemented several temporary practices in response to the current Coronavirus pandemic. This includes checking temperatures of children and visitors to the center, limiting access, enhanced cleaning, and removal of plush toys and dramatic play clothing. With regard to limited access it was discussed that while the recommendation is that parent be restricted to being met at the door where the custody of the children is exchanged the center does not have sufficient personnel to maintain this. Rose state that the parents do bring the children to the classroom doors where the staff meet them to exchange custody and the parents are not allowed in the classrooms. I was not able to observe a diaper change on the day of my visit but the staff were able to verbally describe the procedures they follow. There were no children currently taking any prescription medications but the center does have policies and procedures in place should it become necessary in the future. I reviewing first aid kits it was noted that the center kits in general were missing several key elements that included bottled water, slings, tape, and large splints. First aid kits should be reviewed regularly to ensure that items necessary to address most common first aid needs are present. While the supplies in each kit can be applied to the center as a whole the staff will need to ensure that when engaged in off-site activities a fully stocked kit is also taken with those children.

The center playground is a large area with climbing structures, open grassy areas, and paved walkways. Pea gravel is used

beneath climbing structures for fall surfacing and beginning to develop a hard pan layer which will need to be monitored for aeration or installation of additional loose fill material. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. The playground is fenced and some of the fencing has recently been replaced. Additional toys and materials are maintained in a shed and were observed to be in good repair. Shade is provided by several large mature trees.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program uses a four week rotation of menus and a good variety of nutritious meal options were listed. Good food storage and handling practices were generally observed though a few bulk food items had not been placed in air tight seal-able containers after the original packaging seal had been broken. The center is pre-portioning meals as a means to reduce the risk of disease transmission at this time.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were present and posted in an area that was readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. Several staff and child files were randomly selected for review and compared to self-audits completed by the center which were found to be accurate. Based on the files reviewed and the self-audits all files were found to contain all required documentation. Inspection logs and certificates were current and valid. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and found to contain all required written policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center completed renovations such as playground fencing and replacing a storage shed.

The center has applied for a grant to replace windows and will be looking to complete that work later this year.

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

109.10(9): First aid kit: The center shall ensure that a clearly labeled first aid kit that is sufficient to address minor injury or trauma is available and accessible to staff at all times when children are:In the center.In the outdoor play area.On field trips.
-- Kits need to be reviewed and replenished to ensure that materials necessary to address most common first aid needs are present in the center and for groups that attend activities away from the center.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Notices that included both written and diagram instructions for fire and tornado were not present by each exit from all programming rooms.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

-- Mobiles must be removed from cribs regardless of whether children have the ability to stand or not.

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.