



Health and  
Human Services

## Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

---

### CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sioux Center Christian School

Provider No.: 50969

Address: 630 1st Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA, 51250

County: Sioux

Director's Name: Rebecca Vander Werf

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7127220777

E-Mail: rvanderwerf@siouxcenterchristian.com

HHS Visit Date: 03/05/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2026 to 04/01/2028

---

#### Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/28/2024

Comments:

---

#### Report Visit Type:

☐

PTO

☒

Licensing Visit

☐

Drop In

☐

Administrative Change

#### License Type:

☒

Full

☐

Provisional

#### Quality initiative:

☐

Accreditation

#### Program Duration:

☐

Year-Round

☒

School Year

☐

Summer Only



CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

| HOURS:    | <u>Year-round</u> | <u>School-Year</u> | <u>Summer Only</u> |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday    |                   |                    |                    |
| Monday    |                   | 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM |                    |
| Tuesday   |                   | 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM |                    |
| Wednesday |                   | 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM |                    |
| Thursday  |                   | 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM |                    |
| Friday    |                   | 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM |                    |
| Saturday  |                   |                    |                    |

Program Population Served:

- ☐ Infant(0-<24 Months)
- ☐ Toddler
- ☒ PreSchool
- ☒ School Age
- ☐ All Ages

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|------------------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| General          |         |         | 17        | 122         | 139      |
| Summer           |         |         |           |             | 0        |

1. Basic Overview

On March 5, 2026, I conducted an unannounced visit at Siouxland Christian School. Upon arrival, I met with the program director, Rebecca Vander Werf. Ms. Vander Werf holds a BA in Elementary Education, has many years of experience working with children, and has additional training in ABA techniques that support positive approaches to discipline. Siouxland Christian School offers several childcare programs designed to support the varying needs of the families they serve.

The school building remains secure at all times, with entry controlled through a locked door equipped with a buzzer system that allows staff to monitor and approve access.

I observed all areas of the center, including classrooms, activities, nutrition practices, health and safety procedures, playground, and administrative review.

The original program, known as 4 Care Kids, is a preschool childcare program for children ages four and five who attend half-day preschool and require childcare before and after their preschool hours. Children attend either a morning or afternoon session. The program utilizes school bussing to transport children to and from their half-day preschool sites. Children arrive at the school between 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., eat lunch, and are then transported to their preschool program. A second preschool group is brought back for lunch, and children remain in care until the school day ends at 3:00 p.m. If needed, extended care is available from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., during which preschool children are combined with the school-age aftercare program. This schedule operates Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, when preschool is not in session, 4 Care provides full-day childcare from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday care is available for children in 4Care, TK, and Kindergarten to help bridge the childcare gap created by the shortened weekly academic schedule. The school also



### CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

offers an aftercare program that serves as an extension of the school's Christ-centered educational environment. Staff help children with homework, coordinate group activities, and supervise gym or outdoor play to ensure that children remain active and engaged throughout the afternoon.

During the summer months, Siouxland Christian School hosts Tales and Trails, a program open to children ages 5–11 from the broader community. Weekly themed camps encourage exploration, outdoor play, and hands-on learning about God's creation. Families may choose half-day or full-day options and select the weeks they wish to attend. The program emphasizes supervised, play-based learning tailored to children's interests and developmental needs. Staff follow the Love and Logic approach, which focuses on maintaining a loving attitude and preserving the dignity of each child while supporting their academic, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual growth.

During the visit, the classrooms appeared warm, inviting, and filled with natural light. Colors, shapes, the alphabet, and children's artwork were displayed throughout the rooms. The program uses a play-based learning model that allows children to express themselves through activity and exploration. I observed positive interactions between staff and children. Staff demonstrated good classroom structure, provided gentle and effective redirection, and kept children consistently engaged.

Menus were posted, and the program participates in the school's lunch program. Each child brings a water bottle that is cleaned daily. Although the program is not enrolled in the food program, it follows CACFP guidance. Parents provide snacks, while the program provides lunches during the school year. In the summer, families send lunches from home, and staff ensure all lunches and snacks meet healthy standards and are stored properly under refrigeration. Children rest on mats with coverings, and bedding is washed weekly. Staff work collaboratively and maintain positive relationships with families. Communication with families occurs through texting or the Bloomz app. Documentation for monthly fire drills, tornado drills, and playground inspections was current. Radon testing was completed and found to be within a normal range. The annual furnace inspection had also been completed. The center is not administering medications at this time, and all required postings were observed.

The outdoor play area is a fenced-in playground shared with the school. It includes slides, trikes, balls, climbing equipment, and a variety of outdoor toys. Wood chips provide appropriate surfacing under the play structures. The program also has access to an indoor gym for use during inclement weather. Transportation for the childcare program is provided through Sioux Center Christian School buses. Field trips are offered only during the summer program, and school buses are used for those outings.

Overall, the program maintains very organized and meticulous records. Staff interactions, communication practices, and the physical environment all reflect a program that is attentive to the developmental needs of the children and supportive of the families they serve.

The goal of their program is too welcome even more children into their summer care community. The program is open to all kids, and you do not need to attend the school to join in. Each week brings a fun new theme—last summer included favorites like Performing Arts and the Wild West. The program runs for eight weeks, and families can choose the schedule that works best for them, whether that's one week, a couple of weeks, or the full summer.

## 2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Vander Werf and her staff show a genuine warmth and dedication to the program, which is clearly reflected in the caring, attentive, and encouraging way they interact with the children each day.

The program is also open to children in the community who do not attend Sioux Center Christian School, making it accessible and welcoming to a broader range of families. The summer Tales and Trails program is especially parent-friendly, offering flexible scheduling that allows families to choose how often their child attends. Each week features themed activities designed to engage the whole child, encouraging growth socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually through hands-on, play-based learning. Tales and Trails is a valuable resource for the Sioux Center community, offering children structured activities and meaningful learning experiences throughout the summer. The program provides a supportive, engaging environment that helps children continue growing and exploring even when school is not in session.

## 3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard



CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

**4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance**

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

I discussed with Becky the oversight of behavior management relating to helping childcare staff: 1) Understanding Expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance:

Becky has been trained in Applied Behavior Analysis which they use in their program. ABA helps students build positive behaviors and learn new skills that support their success in the classroom. Teachers and support staff use ABA strategies to make routines smoother, improve communication, and help students stay engaged in learning. For example, ABA might be used to teach a student how to raise their hand instead of calling out, help a child follow a morning routine with visual supports, or reinforce on-task behavior during independent work. It can also guide how staff respond to challenging behaviors by identifying what the student is trying to communicate and teaching more appropriate ways for them to express their needs. Overall, ABA provides schools with a structured, encouraging approach that helps students grow and participate more fully in their school day. Staff utilizes pictures and a token system to encourage positive behaviors. Becky has a strong relationship with her staff and an open door to providing solutions before behaviors become a program. They also communicate with parents about any issues they may be having with a student so it can be address in the home as well.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center each year.

Date: 03/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at <https://iowaccrr.org>.