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

Name of Center: St John School **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19198

Street: 314 3rd St NE **City:** Independence Iowa **Zip** 50644 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: 314 3rd St NE, Independence, IA, 50644

Director's Name: Jim Gieryng **Phone Number:** 319-334-7173

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jim Gieryng **E-Mail:** gieryngj@sjs.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 03-01-2021

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

Date Inspected: 05-11-2020

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 X 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			23	25	48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2022 to 05-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 02-09-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/20/22 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. John School in Independence. I met with Rita Williamson, the director. Ms. Williamson has a BA in elementary education and started back with the program in January 2020. She was an on-site supervisor for the program during the 2017-2018 school year. She also has previous experience as an in-home child care provider. The program employs a total of seven staff members. Linda Hosch is the lead teacher of the three-year-old preschool class and Jane Gates is her associate. Ms. Gates also works in the before and after school child care program. Jim Gieryng is the principal of the school and the on-site supervisor for the program.

The program is in St. John Catholic School. The three-year-old preschool class meets Monday through Thursday from 8:00 -11:00 am. The program also offers a child care program that operates from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm. The child care program cares for three-year-old through school-aged children. There are currently 42 children enrolled. The four-year-old preschool program became exempt from DHS licensing in February 2019. It is part of the voluntary statewide preschool program and is regulated under the Department of Education.

The program operates out of two classrooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Artificial lighting is used. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the preschool room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, sensory table, dramatic play, writing, math, science, puppets, Play-Doh, 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 bathroom in the preschool room that has four toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are two sinks in the child care room and handwashing procedures were posted. Cots are used to nap.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans are developed around weekly themes. A lesson plan was available for review. There is smart board in the room to help with educational activities. You must secure the electrical cords for the smart board so that children do not have access to them.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in both rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted in both rooms.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the boiler room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/11/20, with compliance on 05/20/20.

The children can eat breakfast in the cafeteria, but the parents must purchase it. The children are released from child care to

eat breakfast. The preschool program has a morning snack that is provided by parents. The school provides the child care children with a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. The children in child care have a choice of purchasing lunch through the school or bringing a cold lunch. Both snacks and lunch are eaten in the program room. Lunch trays are returned to the cafeteria to be washed. The preschool is documenting the morning snack. Lunch and snack menus were posted for the child care program. If the school-age latchkey children want a snack they bring it from home.

Children must wash their hands prior to being sent over to the cafeteria for breakfast.

The center uses Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfecting Cleaner to sanitize the food tables. They wash the tables with soap and water first and follow the disinfectant with a portable water rinse. There is a refrigerator in each room and thermometers were present. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The parent information is posted in each room. The mandatory reporter, child care consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed four staff files. They were in good condition. One staff member did have a hit on their background check. This information must be sent in to Des Moines for the staff member to receive permission to work in child care.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. Not all the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Currently there are separate handbooks for the child care/latchkey program and for the preschool program. Both programs are under the same license and are required to have the same policies. The handbook for the child care/latchkey was missing several policies. The handbook for the preschool had most of the policies. Both handbooks did not have a written policy for universal precautions, the curriculum and a written plan for staff orientation regarding the program's policies and licensing standards. You must add information about the discipline that cannot be used under the discipline the policy.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed but are incomplete. You must develop policies on retention of records and continuation of care. You must also identify an evacuation site out of town. You must complete the front page of the emergency preparedness form from the CCR&R website that identifies emergency numbers and emergency contacts.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. Staff members were engaged in activities with the children. Staff members maintained positive conversations with the children and provided them with praise. Positive redirection was used when necessary. They introduced activities to the children and used play as an opportunity to teach the children about colors and counting. Staff members encouraged the children to use their imaginations. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 3 that expires on 03/31/24.

Ms. Williamson has organized staff and children files that were easy to read.

The child care program and preschool program work together well. They have good communication between staff members and with the parents.

Ms. Williamson states the child care and the preschool try to coordinate together for themes and ideas and crafts.

Ms. Williamson states they plan to put a playground in the area outside of the multi-purpose room. There will not be any equipment but there will be centers. Ms. Williamson and Ms. Hosch are bouncing ideas off each other and they are using Covid funds.

The program incorporates Christian teachings and prayers into their day.

Ms. Williamson states they have received grants. Ms. Williamson states they are excited for the grants and they have helped with several purchases to improve the program.

Ms. Williamson states they are going to add a sink to the child care room this summer.

The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

The program has a website for families and the community. The three-year-old preschool program has a private social media page for enrolled families.

St. John school operates under an active board of directors and is part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

You must make the necessary adjustments to your child care handbook and your preschool handbook so that both have all of the necessary written policies.

You must also add the additional information to your emergency preparedness plans. You were not cited for this because you do have plans, but they are incomplete.

An administrative change is being made to name James "Jim" Gieryng as the new director. He started the role in January 2023. He is the principal of St. John School. His email address is gieryngj@sjs.pvt.k12.ia.us

*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.