Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Columbkille Early Childhood

Provider No.: 19211

Address: 1198 Rush ST, Dubuque, IA, 52003

County: Dubuque

Director's Name: Marcy Wiedenbacher

On-Site Supervisor: none

Phone Number: 5635831620

E-Mail: mweidenbacher@holyfamilydbq.org

HHS Visit Date: 02/23/2026

Licensing Period: 06/01/2025 to 06/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/15/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		6:30 AM to 5:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			63	77	140
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 2/23/26. The center director, Marcelline Weidenbacher, was present as were other staff. Marcelline is a qualified director having an associates degree in early childhood education, NAC certification, and many years of experience as a center director and additional training while operating this program. This center is part of the Holy Family Catholic school system which has many other schools and centers in the Dubuque area as well as a well-defined organizational structure. The Holy Family system provides support to this preschool and child care operation. A child may start the program at age two but must be three years old by September 15. The center operates school year/school day only. The center uses space within the recently remodeled St. Columbkille Elementary School building. The before/after school children cared for at the center are only children who attend this school. The center participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool program. The center director states the center utilizes the Frog Street and Leader In Me curriculums throughout the program as well as the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold along with other curriculums specified by the local school district for the prek program.

The center occupies the following licensed space in one wing the school building: room 121 (three/four year old preschool and child care and combined group of three through five year old before and after school), room 114 (four/five year old child care after prek), and room 112 (same as room 114). The cafeteria is nearby to this wing of the building and is used for school age child care. The child care area has its own building entrance. Program rooms all have restroom areas within the program space as well as hand washing sinks and a food preparation sink within the classroom. The cafeteria also includes two hand washing sinks within the room. Children in the cafeteria travel a short distance to use hallway restrooms nearby. The center may also use the gymnasium for indoor large motor activities when available, however, it is not included in the license capacity for the center. All program space was observed.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

The center serves breakfast, snack, lunch, and snack, and the center does participate in the CACFP. Food is now prepared off site at one of the other Holy Family school locations and brought to this center. That kitchen is licensed by IDPH, and the license is current. Final preparation is completed in this school's IDPH licensed kitchen and brought to the rooms. Some children do bring their own lunch, and the center is reminded to be careful to inspect and supplement to meet CACFP requirements when necessary.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center continues to be very well managed by an experienced director and several experienced staff. The center continues at IQ4K level one through 4/30/26. the director states the center is currently working toward level two certification. The staff continue to work quite well together. Required documentation and staff and child files continue to be very well organized. The center benefits from being part of the larger Holy Family system and the resources available with that. The staff were once again observed to be highly engaged with all of the children in the program rooms. The children appeared to be thoroughly enjoying their experiences. The rooms were designed well for the child care center. The program rooms are bright with large windows, are organized, and are nicely decorated with the children's projects and creations. Program rooms are spacious and furnishings are new. Materials are plentiful, are nicely arranged, and are accessible to the children. The center has a good supply of books arranged by topic. The children's projects are posted throughout the center. The center director states the center participates in the Bright Beginnings Book Boxes program administered through the local public library which supplies books to the center on a monthly basis. The center also participates in the "Bridge to Reading" program where the center can get 10 books per year given to the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

N/A

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center is reminded of the rules regarding combining different age groupings of children and what is allowed and when. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule.

1. Secure cabinet in room 114 that include staff items or store those where they can not be reached by children.
2. Review outdoor play area for availability of shade. Shade structure(s) may be needed.
3. Update posted schedule to reflect the start times of meals/snacks and ensure no less than two hours and no more than three hours between the start times of each meal/snack.
4. Ensure staff files include copy of current valid driver's license for any staff who are driving the center mini buses.

This center will continue with a full license. Please correct the concerns noted in the report so that corrections are obvious and maintained. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 03/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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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**.