

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

**Name of Center:** St Matthew Preschool **Enrollment:** 98 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 47708

**Street:** 2244 1st Ave NE **City:** Cedar Rapids **Iowa Zip:** 52402 **County:** Linn

**Mailing Address:** 2244 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

**Director's Name:** Amy Ball **Phone Number:** 319-362-3021

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Amy Ball **E-Mail:** aball@stmatthewcr.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 01-24-2019

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received**      X      **Yes**      No      NA      **Date Signed:** 11-29-2018

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

**Date Inspected:** 04-16-2018

**Comments :**

**LICENSE TYPE:**      **Child Care**      X      **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:**      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

<b>HOURS:</b>	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
<b>LICENSE CAPACITY</b>	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			80		80
Summer					0

**QRS Rating:**   N/A

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b>	
X	<b>FULL</b> license from 02-01-2019 to 02-01-2021
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from
	<b>DENIAL</b> of initial application
	<b>SUSPENSION</b> of license
	<b>REVOCACTION</b> of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 01-28-2019

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

Not applicable.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

St. Matthew Preschool is a non-profit preschool program located inside St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School. St. Matthew Preschool functions under the jurisdiction of the St. Matthew Board of Education which consists of several elected members of the parish and the pastor. The St. Matthew Preschool is a non-profit program that has been in operation since 1984. This program offers a 3-year-old preschool program and a 4-year-old preschool program. The program operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:15am to 11:30am. Current enrollment is 98 children.

St. Matthew Preschool's director/on-site supervisor is Amy Ball. Ms. Ball has a BS degree in elementary education as well as over 20 years of experience working with children.

On 1/24/2019 all program space was observed.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

St. Matthew's mission is to "...provide a Christian environment in which each child can grow spiritually, emotionally, physically, and intellectually through age-appropriate activities. We are committed, in collaboration with families, to enhance each child's character development and nurture the individual strengths and talents that allow each child to reach their potential..."

St. Matthew Preschool has the following website for families and the community to access information about the program: <http://www.stmatthewcr.org/school>.

Preschool staff are professional - experienced, educated, and organized. Several staff have advanced teaching degrees and/or CDAs. The program continues to retain many staff including director Ms. Ball. The program has a noted "staff of the month". Since the last monitoring visit, St. Matthew Catholic School obtained a new school principal and St. Matthew Preschool obtained a new assistant director to help assist with administrative items.

Communication between St. Matthew Preschool and families continues to flourish. The program completes regular newsletters that contain a variety of information including program reminders, curriculum updates, and community resource information. St. Matthew Preschool also has access to an advanced phone system.

St. Matthew Preschool offers many social family events throughout the year including an annual Christmas program, Halloween event, fall open house, regular all school/program book fairs, ice cream social, fundraisers, and spring graduation ceremony. Upcoming Events (mixed-up day, rainbow day, etc.) include the celebration of Catholic School's Week. Curriculum continues to incorporate staff/family conferences, on-site guest speaker events, off-site field trips, letter/number recognition activities, play experiences, literacy activities (including 3-grade student/preschool reading buddy program), and teacher created ideas. Staff use a variety of verbal and pictures cues to help children transition throughout the preschool day. Ms. Freeman discussed how the preschool classrooms regularly rotate supplies/center play experiences.

St. Matthew Preschool has a solid relationship with the school administration, St. Matthew ECC, school custodial staff, and school kitchen personnel in order to help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. St. Matthew Preschool operates under an 11 member school board. The program has an active PTO (parent teacher organization). The PTO holds regular meetings, sponsors fundraising events, holds annual back to school events, and sponsors family activities.

St. Matthew collaborates well with many community partners including the local nurse consultant, local businesses, and CCR&R. The preschool offers "Little Sports Torts" on-site and has obtained developmentally and physically appropriate sized basketballs.

The classrooms are well-organized, spacious, and sanitary. Two preschool classrooms have a designated area to celebrate a child "Jaguar of the Week". Since the last review, class rosters and name badges have been established. The preschool has access to electronic materials to help enhance the curriculum. These materials include iPads and SMART boards.

Staff were observed helping prevent the spread of illness by reminding children to "catch coughs" in elbows and hand wash at necessary times. Separate cubbies/storage areas for each child to store his/her personal items separate from every other child's personal items are well established.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. The areas of study throughout the preschool included snow, ice, and winter season. Throughout each classroom, children had access to an array of activities (including books, imaginative play options, crafts, and building materials). Staff engaged well with the children (particularly during center play events in room #108, during group circle games/discussion in room #110, during group line walking, book reading, and music/movement activities in room #102, and during "tech time" in room #104). Staff presented materials in an enthusiastic manner. Staff encouraged each child to try different activities and share classroom materials. Staff utilized the teaching of PBIS and FLIP-IT when needed. The daily routine transitions (including program cleanup procedures and snack time routines) went smoothly. Many words of encouragement and meaningful discussion could be heard throughout the monitoring visit. Children responded well to staff and appeared comfortable at the program.

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

None noted.

#### **V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Ensure the physical exam report for any upcoming staff physicals with TB screening/testing is placed into his/her respective.

A plumbed hand washing sink continues to be highly recommended for classroom #108. This will help improve sanitation and daily routines that require hand washing.

The child restroom floors (particularly in room #102, 104 and the hallway preschool restrooms) are showing much ware/staining. At this point, it is difficult to determine if the floor tiles are simply worn from age or if the floor tiles are not getting properly clean/disinfected each day. If it's determined the restroom floor tiles are worn from age, please replace so that the program can be ensured that area is properly cleaned/disinfected as required each day. If it's determined the flooring tiles are not being cleaned and disinfected as required each day, please ensure this is remedied.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

\*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.