Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Merri-Land Christian Preschool

Provider No.: 30394

Address: 615 W 2nd St, Saint Ansgar, IA, 50472

County: Mitchell

Director's Name: Rylie Hansen

On-Site Supervisor: Anna Rosenberg

Phone Number: 6417134873

E-Mail: merriland.christian.preschool@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/29/2026

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/04/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:15 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday			
Thursday		8:15 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday		8:15 AM to 3:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	15	0	15
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to Merri-Land Christian Preschool in St. Ansgar on 10-29-26 where I met with the director and lead teacher, Rylie Hansen. Rylie started as the lead and director in September 2019 and is well qualified for the position with a BA in elementary education and previous child care experience. Anna Rosenberg is the assistant teacher and has also been with the program for the past several years. The program operates out of the basement of the parish center for First Lutheran Church and it has been in operation since 1974. The program is operated as a non-profit entity overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program offers 3 sessions, Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten Prep. The Nursery program only meets on Friday and is for 3 year old children. The Preschool program meets M,T,Th and is offered to 4 year old children. The Kindergarten Prep meets M,T,TH,F and is offered for 4 and 5 year old children. There are currently 31 children enrolled in the program between the three sessions. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as observed in prior visits. The preschool operates out of two rooms with one for primary programming and quiet center activities, and the other for large motor skill and active center play. Both rooms have two doors on either end of the room that open to the main corridor with one serving as the primary exit and the other as a secondary emergency exit. Exits were maintained so that they were clear of obstruction and opened freely and easily. Windows are located along the exterior walls and provide natural lighting, ventilation, and a limited view of the outdoors. Bathrooms are located outside of the classrooms off the main corridor. Both rooms were observed to be clean with no maintenance issues noted. Each room is divided into activity centers though the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming & Interaction:
A copy of the daily schedule is posted for each class. All classes follow the same general curriculum which has an identified focus theme, and specific learning concepts. The lesson plan and engagement activities are then adjusted to the developmental levels of each class.
The materials in the activity centers, and the posted projects were supportive of the curriculum focus.
Good interactions were observed on the day of the visit. Both teachers greeted the child and their families as they arrived and knew each child by name/face recognition. The program was observed during the Pre K session which only had 4 children enrolled. As a result Anna did leave once the children had been greeted and settled into the classroom for the day. Rylie presented a very positive and energetic demeanor, and spoke to the children in calm and positive tones.

Health & Safety
Good handwashing practices were observed with the teachers monitoring restroom use and hand washing. Hand sanitizer was present in the classroom to supplement hand washing as needed such as with one child that blew her nose and used hand sanitizer.
First aid kits are present and contain materials necessary to address common first aid needs.
A list of children with identified health concerns was posted, and response plans were present for those that needed them.
Tables are sanitized before snack service, and teachers do wait for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, personal belongings, and other items that could be a safety risk were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children.
Toys and materials present were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

Nutrition:
Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided.
The parents take it in turn to provide snack options and a calendar of snacks that are served is maintained.
Good food storage practices were observed. The center does have a small refrigerator present to maintain cold holding temperatures if needed. Dry pantry items were either prepackaged single serving options, or had been placed in air tight containers if the packaging seal had been broken.

Playground:
The center does not have a traditional playground on site but does have the room used for large motor skill play. There are no climbing structures in that room but the floor plan is open such that the children could use balls, riding toys, and engage in other play activities. The program also engages in field trips, walks, and other activities outdoors as part of the planned curriculum.

Administration:
All required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. Other required notices for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, hand washing, daily schedule, and planned curriculum were also present.
All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information.
Staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation.
All required inspection logs and certificates were available and current.
The center handbooks were reviewed and found to contain all required written policies though some needed to be expanded to include all required elements.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None Cited

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

A list of required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided to the center.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full license will remain in effect 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.

Date: 10/30/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.