Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St John Noah's Ark Christian Childcare

Provider No.: 6956

Address: 301 N 13th ST, Clarinda, IA, 51632

County: Page

Director's Name: Amy Beal

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7125425501

E-Mail: stjohn.noahsark@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/03/2025

Licensing Period: 02/01/2024 to 02/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/16/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	10	36	26	80
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to St. John Noah's Ark on 9/3/25. The program offers child care services to children infant age to school age 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM and a preschool program. The program is located in the St. John Lutheran Church in Clarinda, Iowa. The center is a two-story brick building. The main floor is the child care center, the second floor is the preschool and school age program, and the basement area has a dining area and an indoor play area. Amy Beal became the director in February 2024. She has a Child Development Accreditation with over 20 years of child care experience. There are 27 children enrolled.

Observation of rooms:
All program rooms were observed and were in ratio. There are six programming rooms, but they are only using four. The programming rooms look very nice and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The rooms were very bright and colorful. All of the rooms had lesson plans and daily schedules. The rooms had diapering procedures and hand washing procedures in every room. Emergency numbers were posted. The infant room had one child and one staff. There are four evacuation cribs. Exersaucers are used twice a day for 15 minutes, but they are not used daily. The one-year-old room had five children and two staff. The two-year-old room had lesson plans. Their current theme is Space. There were 14 children and two staff in the three- and four-year-old room upstairs. The lesson plans are posted. Their current themes are All About Me and Creation. The staff were nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children in every room. Grants for equipment and supplies have been received. During the summer, full day child care programming is provided to school age children. The curriculum that is used is called One In Christ. There is no before or afterschool programming because there is no bus to pick up or drop off. Parent teacher conferences are held twice a year in which progress and goals are discussed. The daily sheets looked good. The center uses the ProCare app. Make sure you follow the three-bottle procedure for sanitizing and disinfecting - 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Make sure staff know the dwell time for the products for sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff reported they are using Purell Surface for both sanitizing and disinfecting. Please review and consider posting what is sanitized and what is disinfected. The children walk to the library weekly during the summer for the summer reading program. The doors to the church are not locked; however, all programming areas are locked. Parents have an individualized key card to get into the programming rooms. They clock the kids in and out on the ProCare app. Toys are rotated about every six months or as needed.

Nutrition:
The center is not on the federal food program but follows the CACFP guidelines. The center prepares snacks and the local hospital makes lunch. Volunteers from the church pick up the lunch from the hospital each day and deliver it to the center. The menus are posted on a monthly basis. The meals are served downstairs. Toddlers eat in their room. The church has a nice large kitchen. Proper food storage was not being used. Please follow the proper food storage guidelines. The refrigerators and freezers have thermometers.

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Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are completed and documented; however, they did not do one in August. Emergency numbers are posted. Fire and tornado diagrams are posted in every room; however, they are not posted by the exits. Please post these by the exits. There were wagons blocking an emergency exit. Please make sure all exits are unobstructed. The church installed a radon mitigation system in July 2023. Eight radon tests were completed in February 2023 and all tests were under a 4.0 pCi/L. Please review the DHHS handbook for information on radon as the rules have been updated and the frequency of testing may have changed for your center. It was reported that the building is all electric. If you have any fuel burning appliances (furnace, etc.) you will need an annual fuel burning inspection. Cameras were installed in 2023. Every room has a camera except the restrooms. The center does not dispense any medication and parents have to come to the center to give the medication. One child is on breathing treatments and they follow the medication procedures. Please review the three-step bottle procedure with all staff - 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Please review and consider posting what is sanitized and what is disinfected.

Playground:
The center built a new playground this year. It hasn't been used since July 2024. They just had the ribbon cutting last week and yesterday was their first use. There is a lot of new equipment except for the climbing structure. The sandbox is not being used. The indoor playground has a climbing structure, slide, rock climbing toy, riding toys and tricycles, and other toys such as hula-hoops. Monthly playground safety inspections have not been completed outdoors since it was not being used. They were not being completed on the indoor playground. Please do playground safety inspections on both indoor and outdoor playgrounds. Grants have been received for equipment and supplies. Rubber pellets are used for surfacing outdoors and rubber tiles are used indoors.

Transportation:
No transportation is provided by the center. Walking field trips are taken throughout the year.

Administrative records:
Two staff files were read and one was incomplete. One was missing Universal Precautions and annual training. Please complete the training and notify me when it is done. Three children's files were read and two were incomplete. Both were missing physical exams. Physical exams are required yearly for children under school age. School age children require either a physical exam or an annual statement of health from the parents. Please review all child files and have them updated with the HHS requirements. Staff meetings are held monthly. There is a waiting list due to staff shortages.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Amy Beal has done a great job learning the HHS policies and procedures. Amy, staff, and board members did an amazing job making the necessary corrections after last year's visit. They are proactive and have made numerous improvements to the center. Staff were nurturing, positive, and attentive to the needs of the children. The program is a wonderful resource in the community. The board is very supportive of the program and they help with a variety of duties such as files, fundraising, repairs, etc. The center is working on IQ4K level 1. The center receives grants for supplies and equipment. They used grants and fundraising for the outdoor playground. The church installed a radon mitigation system in July 2023. One staff member is using the TEACH Program and others are interested. The center is looking into the WAGES program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training. Amy Beal, the director, did not have current Universal Precautions training. She also did not have the required eight hours of annual training.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary. Three files were reviewed. Physical examinations are due within 30 days of admission and annually thereafter. Two of the files did not have current physical examinations on file. One of the three files reviewed did not have a current immunization record.

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109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year. Emergency instruction and diagrams shall be posted in every programming room and at all emergency exits. The emergency diagrams were not posted at the emergency exits. Please post emergency diagrams at all emergency exits.

Corrected - 109.10(13)d: Daily checks to ensure all exits are unobstructed. There were two wagons partially blocking an emergency exit. Please make sure all exits are unobstructed. Staff moved the wagons once they were pointed out.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed. Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves. Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. Food was not properly sealed. After opening, all food must be sealed in an airtight container.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 2-1-2024 to 2-1-2026.

Please review all files and make sure everyone is current on all of their training. Please email me by 11/1/25 indicating how this has been resolved. If you need assistance from Child Care Resource and Referral, please contact them directly or contact me so I can make a referral.

All noncompliance items listed from last year have been corrected.

Date: 09/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.