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

Name of Center: St John's Christian Day Care **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 23522

Street: 18927 HWY 38 **City:** Monticello Iowa **Zip** 52310 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 18927 HWY 38, Monticello, IA, 52310

Director's Name: Jessi Patterson **Phone Number:** 319-465-5369

On-Site Supervisor(s): Finn Naughton **E-Mail:** sjcdaycare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-16-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-08-2023

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	12	6	22	10	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-14-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

St. John's Christian Day Care has been in operation since 1988. The non-profit program is located inside St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's Christian Day Care operates year-round, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.. The program serves infants through school-age children. Current enrollment is 42.

Director Jessi Patterson has been the director of this program since July 2023. Ms. Patterson has several years experience working with children and continues to participate in annual child training. On-site supervisor/assistant director Finn Naughton has been in the position since August 2023. Ms. Naughton has a BA degree in social work, prior experience working with children and continues to participate in annual child training.

On 5/16/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

St. John's Christian Day Care offers full-time childcare options to help meet the needs of children and their families in the community. St. John's Christian Day Care is well-established in a predominantly rural area and accepts a variety of funding sources.

During 2024, St. John's Christian Day Care will be celebrating their 26th year of providing childcare with Jones County. Congratulations!

St. John's Christian Day Care has historically sponsored a private social media page for enrolled families.

St. John's Christian Day Care has a history of participation in quality initiatives including local and state initiatives.

Since the last review, the program obtained a new management team (Ms. Patterson and Ms. Naughton). Director Ms. Patterson and on-site supervisor Ms. Naughton have both been employed at St. John's Christian Day Care for at least 2 years. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their program's own policies and procedures. Management has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. The program continues to retain seasoned employees as well as hire a few new ones. Staff appreciation and professional growth are part of their program's operations.

St. John's Christian Day Care has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. St. John's Christian Day Care has successfully navigated through various Jones County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

St. John's Christian Day Care is located inside the St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's Lutheran Church which was established in 1864 and is one of the oldest churches in Jones County. The education and fellowship hall were built next to

the worship area in 1983. Building and grounds are well maintained. The childcare continues to maintain their chef who has been with the program since February 2023. The chef as much prior food experience and expresses true joy in being able to cook for young children.

St. John's Christian Day Care operates under a board of directors. Church administrators, board of directors, and church custodial staff help ensure the property is safe and hazard free each day.

St. John's Christian Day Care continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities (e.g. Memories with Mom Cookie Decorating). Fundraising efforts (e.g. gourmet popcorn) also encourage family and community involvement. Management discussed future goals related to the outdoor play space including surfacing and adding an area of concrete.

Classrooms are arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork; Clever caterpillars!) are displayed throughout the program space. Curriculum incorporates play based learning, is theme based, and includes teacher-inspired ideas. Curriculum also historically includes on-site guest speaker events and enrichments. The current month's activities incorporate Mother's Day and spring season.

St. John's Christian Day Care works well with community partners including local businesses, CCR&R, health professionals, local ECI, and the local school district. In 2022, the program obtained a new outdoor toddler climbing structure through the assistance of ECI of Jones County. The program continues to apply for and receive grants. Past grant awards from local businesses (e.g. art easel from the Jones County Regional Fitness, monetary assistance grant from Theisen's) have helped the childcare to make improvements.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, learning play experiences). Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Staff were observed communicating with the children verbally and with sign language. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.9: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment. Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
- Child file reviewed (MR) lacked documentation of a current annual physical exam.
- Child file reviewed (AM) lacked documentation of an Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization, Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization Religious Exemption or Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization Medical Exemption.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
- The improperly functioning clothes washer and dryer shall be replaced. Soiled laundry housed on-site is a sanitation hazard increasing opportunities for the transmission of disease.
- In recent years and for many reasons, the area of natural shade on your outdoor play area has continued to decrease. With an upcoming solar panel installation project, natural shade is expected to further decrease. An area of shade is required on all outdoor play areas. Remedy.
- A shed with solid flooring/base/concrete shall be installed on the outdoor playground to help maintain loose materials in good repair. Since the outdoor play area is in close proximity to farm fields, the solid flooring/base/concrete will help decrease possible insect and/or vermin infestation.
- Equipment on the current playgrounds continues to not be developmentally and/or physically appropriate for infants. A separate fenced-in area with shade and age appropriate outdoor materials for your most youngest children to enjoy is required as well.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please review rule 109.11(4) which states "...New construction after November 1, 1995, shall provide for at least one sink in the same area as the toilet and, for centers serving children two weeks to two years of age, shall provide for at least one sink in the central diapering area. At least one sink shall be provided in program rooms for infants and toddlers or in an adjacent area other than the kitchen. New construction after April 1, 1998, shall have at least one sink provided in the program rooms for infants and toddlers..." In recent years, the young infant room (birth to 6mo) had not been used. Now with increased enrollment, the young infant room is being utilized again. The young infant room has no sink with running water. Since the young infant room is adjacent to the older infant room, any and all activities that require the use of running water are required to occur in the older infant room or for the food related activities only, the kitchen. This includes all diapering activities with required staff and child hand washing after each diaper change and all food prep (e.g. bottle making, dish washing) with required staff and child hand washing prior to all food service. Licensing and management discussed how the center's written policies and procedures could change to include parents providing prefilled bottles each day their infant attends which are then sent home daily for cleaning, sanitizing and refilling. While the young infant room is located in an area of the building built in 1983, licensing strongly recommends adding a sink (or a dual vanity sink) to the young infant room to help with cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, food making, hand washing and so on.

Licensing understands there is an upcoming solar installation project happening on the property in close proximity to the childcare's outdoor play space. Licensing understands solar panels are required to follow National Electrical Code 2020. Solar panels are believed to be low voltage but when done in a larger array have high amperage. There's also an understanding that solar panels have weather proof plugs but that these can messed with. As a result of the input gathered, licensing strongly recommends: Installation of a fence to limit access; All manufacturer (e.g. installation, maintenance) instructions be followed; Collaboration with the childcare's legal representative occur; Collaboration with the childcare's insurance agent occur; and Continued collaboration with the state fire bureau occur.

Continue to ensure childcare children are not playing in the uncovered, open sand cushion surfacing which is not meant to be a sensory-sandbox. The outdoor play areas are adjacent farm fields, and areas of uncovered sand are often left to the elements as well as enjoyed by animals for nesting and/or soiling, which increases sanitation and transmission of illness hazards. Licensing supports moving forward with a more child friendly cushion surface and designated covered sensory area.

As discussed, if an additional room within the church is going to start to be used for childcare, please provide an updated floor plan to include the additional room. Please also obtain an updated fire marshal certificate noting the new additional space meets fire code. Licensing observed the new possible room to not have a sink with running water. As a result, any activities which also require the use of a sink (e.g. diapering, hand washing, dish washing) shall not be completed in the room.

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The program's license remains in full status. 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.