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

Name of Center: Pius Pals Before and After School Program **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46134

Street: 3601 66th St **City:** Urbandale Iowa **Zip** 50322 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 3601 66th St, Urbandale, IA, 50322

Director's Name: Maren Friedman **Phone Number:** 515-276-1061

On-Site Supervisor(s): Laura Campbell **E-Mail:** mfriedman@stpiusxschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-22-2024

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:** 02-12-2024

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

Date Inspected: 01-29-2024

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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	0	0	19	61	80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-27-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was conducted on 2/22/24. A follow-up, scheduled visit was conducted on 2/27/24. The new director, Maren Friedman, was present throughout both visits.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Pius Pals is a child care program for children who attend Saint Pius X School in Urbandale, IA. The center was given permission to open under HHS (formerly DHS) licensing on 10/12/15. Prior to this date, the center was overseen by the Department of Education. Children who attend this school can attend this center. The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum as well as their own learning curriculum in their teachings. During the school year, children can attend 7:00am - 7:50am and/or 3:00pm - 5:30pm. During summer months, programming is 7:30am - 5:30pm. There is now also wrap-around care for preschool children that the center provides.

The center is owned by Saint Pius X School and is overseen by a Board. The director as of 9/2023 is now Maren Friedman. Maren has a BA degree and a Master's degree and has past experience working in child care. Laura Campbell is the on-site supervisor. Laura also has a BA degree as well as past experience working in child care.

The center moved into a newly remodeled space in 8/2022. They use four classrooms (three this year), the indoor gym, and the outdoor playground space. Capacity of the classrooms are 21, 21, 19, and 19.

During the visit on 2/22/24, all children and staff were initially outside on the playground playing in different groups. Staff were spaced out and interacting and playing with children. At the 2/27/24, children were not yet in aftercare as the visit took place earlier to check on the initial below standards from the 2/22/24 visit.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center added a preschool/wrap around care over the past year.

The center has access to a large, indoor gym that they regularly use and especially when weather does not permit outdoor play.

School custodial members as well as staff clean, sanitize, and disinfect the center area nightly.

The center sets aside a specific homework time each day so that children can complete their homework if needed. This was observed during the visit.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The director believes she has a good team who work well together.

There is an incentive program in place for recognizing good work done by staff. Staff holiday parties are also held (some modifications this year because of COVID - 19) to recognize staff throughout the year for their hard work and dedication to children. Inspirational videos are shown to staff to educate, show, and reinforce to them how important their jobs are to children and families.

PBIS is practiced.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1 newer staff member did not have a physical in the hard copy file.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1 child did not have an updated health statement form in the hard copy file.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
Because the center now serves preschool children, radon testing is needed. This was mentioned at last year's visit and report. This was due by 8/2023 and was not completed. This will need to be done.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
The fuel-burning/HVAC inspection invoice form was not available.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

At last year's visit it was noted, "Because the center now serves three - five year old preschool, they are required to do radon testing every two years and have until 8/2023 to do so in the preschool classroom. Radon levels must be below 4.0. The building is new/renovated so there is a new HVAC system in place. However, going forward, documentation of annual service will be required. Also, the center needs a carbon monoxide detector if there is not a built-in one in place. School custodial staff were looking into this and if not built in, one will be installed on 3/1/23". THE CENTER DOES HAVE A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR IN PLACE AS OF THE 2/2024 VISIT.

The center contracts with the school for a bus and a driver for field trips.

This consultant informed the new director of meetings other directors in the Diocese have with each other throughout the year and provided contact information of other directors in the Diocese to get more information on when these meetings are held. This would be another beneficial resource for this center's director.

As mentioned at last year's visit, it is recommended the Emergency Preparedness Kit be stored in a suitcase that has wheels for easier transport if ever needed.

An annual health statement form for children was again emailed to the center.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I - Power profiles.

The CACFP smart phone food application was provided to the director.

Hand washing signs should be posted by all restroom sinks used by the center.

Information on SING and record checks were provided after the visit on 2/22/24.

The program was given permission to use the gym. It is recommended that when the center is in their hours of operation, they have access to the gym over other school personnel when weather doesn't permit outdoor play so that children enrolled are getting access to large motor activities.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.