Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The ELC at St. Paul's

Provider No.: 25082

Address: 1340 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403

County: Linn

Director's Name: Julie Hanlin

On-Site Supervisor: Julie Hanlin

Phone Number: 3193636349

E-Mail: jhanlin@stpaulsumc.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/07/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/19/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM		
Tuesday	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM		
Wednesday	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM		
Thursday	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM		
Friday	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM		
Saturday			

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	28	30	40	10	108
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The ELC at St. Paul's is located inside the St. Paul's United Methodist Church and operates under a board of directors. The ELC at St. Paul's began as the Parents' Day Out Program, was rebranded as the St. Paul's Early Learning Center in 2018, and most recently, underwent a 2025 rebranding change to now be known as The ELC at St. Paul's. The ELC at St. Paul's is an outreach of the Education Work Area of St. Paul's United Methodist Church which continues to be sponsored by the church and receive many in-kind services.

The combined director and on-site supervisor of The ELC at St. Paul's is Julie Hanlin. Ms. Hanlin has been a part of this program since 2012 stepping into the combined director and on-site supervisor role in fall 2017. Ms. Hanlin has a BA degree in early childhood, has a plethora of experience working with children and continues to participate in annual professional development.

On 11/7/2025, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in specific age-designated classrooms. The building has sufficient restrooms and hand washing facilities to accommodate this licensed program. Since the last review, new project rooms were established to increase experiences in art, music, transportation, and extended day enrichment opportunities. On the day of this monitoring visit, children and families were observed being warmly greeted by staff upon arrival. The area of study throughout the classrooms was observed to include the fall season. Curriculum on the day of this monitoring visit was observed to be tailored to meet the day's smaller group of attendees. Curriculum included a variety of play experiences (e.g. block building, baby doll caring, crafting) that piqued child interest and encouraged positive responses and interactions (e.g. teacher created "Feeling Monsters"). On 11/7/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in activities that included snack rituals, enter play experiences, and routine transitions. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be truly enjoying their day.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The ELC at St. Paul's philosophy is "...dedicated to quality care of children. We teach faith-based values that we all hold in common. We honor the culture of all children and welcome and respect children of all faiths. We do not insist on adherence to any one set of religious beliefs..."

The ELC at St. Paul's has the following website for families and the community to learn more about the program: https://stpaulsumc.org/early-learning-center/.

The ELC at St. Paul's director Ms. Hanlin is invested in the community, has been a mentor to others and has helped connect families and children with various community resources and events. Ms. Hanlin continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. Ms. Hanlin remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. On 11/7/2025, Ms. Hanlin discussed having a seasoned, tight-knit team of staff who are innovative, enjoy working with children and who support each other and their enrolled children and families.

As of 11/7/2025, The ELC at St. Paul's was again found to be maintaining the required postings, maintaining parent-staff-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Primary curriculum continues to be based upon learning through play. Curriculum also continues to include themes, teacher inspired ideas, guest speaker events, enrichment opportunities and summer camps. Ms. Hanlin discussed future goals including those pertaining to outdoor large gross motor play and outdoor playground improvements.

As of 11/7/2025, The ELC at St. Paul's continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, diapering, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, discussion included how staff help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. Ms. Hanlin also talked about how the licensed program has continued supports from their board of directors, church administration and a new contracted cleaning company.

The ELC at St. Paul's has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This program has successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

When licensing completed this annual visit, discussion included the "Growing Iowa" grant funds designed to help support childcare in Iowa. Specifically, this program is in need of improvements to the outdoor space including increasing large gross motor riding materials (e.g. scooters), replacing outdoor sensory bins, increasing outdoor child rest areas, replacing loose fill surfacing, adding additional gardening-nature items, and increasing security window protection. The "Growing Iowa" funds we discussed actually ended on 9/25/2025 in the Linn County area. However, please continue to ensure your contact information is updated with CCR&R as information about replenishment of these funds, as well as new future funding opportunities, continue to be primarily communicated through CCR&R.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

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Date: 11/20/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.