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

Name of Center: All Saints Center for Early Learning **Enrollment:** 41 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24671

Street: 720 29th ST SE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52403 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 720 29th ST SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403

Director's Name: Emily Ritchart **Phone Number:** 319-298-9844

On-Site Supervisor(s): Lori Heaton, Tina Leibfried, Assistant Director **E-Mail:** directorcel@allsaints-crschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-24-2023

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: 02-27-2023

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	76	44	132
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2022 to 05-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 05-08-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

All Saints Center for Early Learning has been in operation for many years. All Saints Center for Early Learning is located inside All Saints Parish School and operates under a Board of Directors. The program provides early learning programming including preschool and childcare to children age 2-years through school-age.

Since the last review in October 2022, the program obtained a new director Emily Ritchart. Ms. Ritchart has an AAS degree in early childhood education, experience working in licensed childcare as well as a child development home, and continues to participate in much child development related training. Assistant director Tina Leibfried has been employed with All Saints Center for Early Learning for over 19 years, has a BA degree in education and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Lori Heaton has been with the program for 13 years and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 4/24/23, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

All Saints Center for Early Learning is a well established program offering many different early learning opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children throughout the community. The program is located in a residential neighborhood of a predominantly urban community.

The philosophy of All Saints Center for Early Learning is to "...provide an early childhood experience with added education in morality and spirituality, providing a child with added richness and socialization skills. Not only are their mental, emotional, social and physical needs recognized, but also their spiritual needs. The results of providing an education with these strong foundational pillars are well-rounded children with key skills, ready to move into the next stage of life..."

All Saints Center for Early Learning has the following websites for families and the community: https://www.allsaints-crschool.org/.

All Saints Center for Early Learning is accredited by the National Catholic Education Association and is part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. All Saints Center for Early Learning has a history of participating in quality initiatives including QRS. Ms. Ritchart talked about future goals related to participation in IQ4K.

Ownership of All Saints Center for Early Learning has remained consistent. Since the last review, a new director was hired. Emily Ritchart has been the director since October 2022. Ms. Ritchart has prior experience in licensed childcare and is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Ritchart is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations. Ms. Ritchart has goals for the program including staff professional development and establishing a separate 2yo outdoor play area.

All Saints Center for Early Learning continues to retain seasoned staff. Staff reported celebrating 19 years, 12 years, 4 years, and 3 years and 2 years with this program. Ms. Ritchart described their team of employees as trustworthy, open to feedback and hard working particularly with classroom arrangements. Ms. Ritchart discussed being new to the director role and being grateful for all the support she has received.

All Saints Center for Early Learning has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. All Saints Center for Early Learning has successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County Flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 8/20/20 Derecho Storm event and 2019 health pandemic.

All Saints Center for Early Learning is located inside All Saints Parish School. All Saints Parish School commenced operations in 1949. During 2023, All Saints Parish School will be celebrating their 74th year of providing Catholic education within the community. How All Saints Center for Early Learning came to fruition (e.g. Seven Sisters of Mercy staff, expansions, addition of the school lunch program in 1958) is quite impressive! All Saints Center for Early Learning functions under the jurisdiction of the All Saints Catholic School Board consisting of elected parish members, school principal, and church pastor. All Saints Center for Early Learning has a collaborative partnership with All Saints Parish School. Building and grounds are well-maintained. School custodial staff, school administration, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. There is an AED on-site. The program has regular access to the school gymnasium for large gross motor activities particularly on inclement weather days. Since the last review, the school custodial staff helped build/install a gate in the 2yo classroom.

All Saints Center for Early Learning 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. Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork, Clever muffin cup flower craft! Unique paper-plate bee project!) are displayed throughout various areas of the program space. Curriculum occurs in a Christian environment and includes a combination of strategies based upon Iowa Early Learning Strategies (e.g. religious education, Creative Curriculum, physical activity, social-emotional components, Jolly Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears, STEM work, Montessori style teaching practices, teacher inspired ideas). Ms. Ritchart discussed how summer 2023 registration is well-underway. Summer programming will include theme days (e.g. water day, cooking projects), off-site field trips (e.g. local farm, Usher's Ferry, local parks, local swimming pools, bowling), and on-site events (e.g. community helpers, Kona Ice). Ms. Ritchart talked about being extremely proud of the program's curriculum and the newly established 2yo classroom.

All Saints Center for Early Learning collaborate with many community partners including CCR&R, local health professionals, and local businesses. Ms. Ritchart discussed how the program applied for and received a 2023 grant allowing the program to purchase fresh produce/foods from local farmers markets to enhance children's healthy eating.

Ms. Ritchart discussed how 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. All Saints Center for Early Learning has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included the color purple, the oval shape, spring season. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, puzzles, sensory, crafts) that encouraged innovation and playful learning. Activities observed throughout the licensed rooms were many (e.g. music with movement, book reading, group discussion, play learning experiences, outdoor large gross motor). Group discussion in the 3yo classroom specifically included phonics work, name/letter recognition activity, music, and calendar. A clever camping play learning experience was observed to have been created in the 4yo classroom. Graduation practice, book reading of "I Don't Want to be a Frog" with "glum" word discussion, and counting of last days of school was being enjoyed in the enrichment classroom! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their playful learning experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were observed communicating with the children verbally, with picture cues, and through sign language. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, providing positive redirection when needed, and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. 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:

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure staff LH (file reviewed) updates universal precautions training, updates mandatory reporter training (required every 3 years) and receives documentation of TB screening/testing as part of the physical exam (updated every 3 years).

Continue to ensure posted lesson plans are up-to-date.

Ensure all diapering stations or changing tables have a nonabsorbent, nonporous surface. Remove porous diaper pad.

Continue to ensure contents of lower cabinets are either child friendly or inaccessible to children.

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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.