Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: TLC Preschool

Provider No.: 25168

Address: 1002 E 13th St, Vinton, IA, 52349

County: Benton

Director's Name: Gail Gerber

On-Site Supervisor: Teresa Scheel

Phone Number: 3194725571

E-Mail: tlcpreschoolvinton@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/07/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/18/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			19		19
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/07/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to TLC Preschool in Vinton. Gail Gerber is the director but she was not present the day of my visit. Ms. Gerber has a BA in elementary education and an MA in elementary education. She has also taken early childhood education courses. Ms. Gerber has been the director since 2000. She has fifty years of experience in teaching. Teresa Scheel is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher for the three-year-old preschool class. Ms. Scheel started in August 2006. Jessica Kimm is the assistant in the three-year-old room.

TLC Preschool is located inside Trinity Lutheran Church. The program operates under a board of directors that includes five members from Trinity Lutheran Church congregation and a parent member from the three-year-old's classroom. The program offers a three year old preschool class on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30 am. There are 12 children enrolled.

The preschool primarily operates out of one classroom. They are turning a classroom into a library for children to check out books. Windows provide natural lighting. The classroom is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and shapes. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

There is a sink located in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in the classroom with one toilet. The program also has use of a bathroom down the hall from them with two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the church.

There is a phone in the classroom. You must post emergency numbers that include the center's address and phone number and the poison control number. This was also cited last year. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and diagrams were posted by the main program and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum and a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. They also incorporate Bible stories in lessons. The preschool offers a Christian environment. Constant repetition and review are used to teach material. Monthly newsletters are provided to the three-year-old parents. They provide parent and teacher conferences in November and March. At Thanksgiving time both classes prepare a feast.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in September 2024 and must be repeated in five years. Results were within EPA guidelines.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway across from the parish offices. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/18/24.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The parents provide the snacks for the children and snacks are documented on a calendar. The program provides creditable snack options for the parents in their handbook. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. No dishwashing is required, as disposable products are used. There is a refrigerator on site and a thermometer was present. The children eat snack in their classroom.

The center uses Clorox Disinfecting Wipes to sanitize the food tables. Staff members were not sanitizing the tables prior to eating snacks because they were told they should not use the Lysol wipes before they eat. The product is allowed for use on food contact tables. It has a ten second dwell time and requires a portable water rinse. I explained the process to staff members.

There is a fenced in playground. There are two separate areas for fall surfacing and woodchips are used. In one area there are two pieces of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. In the second area there are swings. There is a grassy area for children. There is a caterpillar tunnel, dramatic play equipment, sensory tables and a basketball hoop. Trees provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance of the church. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. I emailed Ms. Gerber a copy of an updated contact poster for myself with the new HHS website information.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The day of my visit the Vinton Fire Department visited the program. They gave a presentation to the children about fire safety and then the children went outside to look at the fire truck. They were each given a fireman hat. The children were very excited about the visit.

Staff members had great interaction with the children. They were moving around the classroom to interact with all the children. They spoke to the children in a calm and pleasant manner. They were patient and provided the children with praise and encouragement. They used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members provided the children with good handwashing reminders. They provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They were nurturing to an upset child and held the child on their lap.

The hallways are decorated with the children's art projects.

Ms. Scheel states she believes they are good with the children and maintain positive interaction.

Ms. Kimm states they are in a "small town community" that comes together for the children. She states the children have grown up together.

Ms. Kimm states the parents tell them how much they love the program.

Ms. Kimm states it is nice to see the children out and about in the community.

Ms. Scheel states they love what they do and it shows.

Ms. Scheel states they do crafts and they are not afraid to get messy.

The church and community are supportive of the preschool program and the church congregation has helped financially

support the program and they hold fundraisers.

The preschool program offers scholarships to families with a need.

TLC staff hosts an orientation, family meet-and-greet before school.

The program is in a secure building.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
The center uses Clorox Disinfecting Wipes to sanitize the food tables. Staff members were not sanitizing the tables prior to eating snacks because they were told they should not use the Lysol wipes before they eat. The product is allowed for use on food contact tables. It has a ten second dwell time and requires a portable water rinse. I explained the process to staff members.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Date: 10/27/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.