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

Name of Center: Joyful Journeys Daycare/Preschool **Enrollment:** 85 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 29248

Street: 2300 27th St **City:** Spirit Lake Iowa **Zip** 51360 **County:** Dickinson

Mailing Address: PO Box 422, Spirit Lake, IA, 51360

Director's Name: Kari Williams **Phone Number:** 712-336-2228

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** joyfuljourneyspreschool.ilc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-19-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-13-2024

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

Date Inspected: 05-07-2024

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	31	16	65		112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 05-29-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced visit was completed on 05/19/25. I met with Director Kari Williams. Ms. Williams has an elementary education degree and six years of experience working with children. Joyful Journey is located in five rooms of the Immanuel Lutheran church. This is a faith based childcare center. The center consists of two infant rooms, a two-year-old room, three-year-old preschool and a four-year-old preschool. They also utilize a large room in the church for large motor development when they are unable to go outside. The center operates Monday through Friday 7:00am to 5:30pm. The three-year-old pre-school operates Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 8:30am to 11:15am, and the 4-year-old preschool is Tuesday thru Friday. They serve children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. They currently have 82 children enrolled in the program. There were 60 children at the time of my visit

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

As I moved from classroom to classroom, I noticed many visual aids including artwork from the children. The center awards classroom for decorations and other events. There are family photos on the walls of each room. They use a creative and faith-based curriculum. The rooms have good arrangements and there are a lot of sensory play centers. They have been growing plan. They also recently made bird feeders to take home. They have lots of signs with both words and actions on them to help children understand what the word means. Throughout the center children were engaged in the lesson being taught. I note a calming technique they use called Bear Hugs and Bubbles where the children give themselves a hug and blow out air.

Daily schedules and menus are hanging in rooms. The center keeps in contact with families through the bright wheel app. They also have a Facebook page which shares information of what is happening at the center.

The center continues to be cleaning daily of toys that children use, and the church janitorial staff cleans the building. They have a schedule of cleaning for their staff where they need to initial when the chore has been completed.

Ms. Williams does room staff meetings as well as going into classrooms to offer observations and assistance to staff as well as the children. Staff ratio to children is exceptional

The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The kitchen is not accessible to the children. Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Center follows proper guidelines for administering medication. There are no children currently on any medication. First aid kits are available and able to treat minor injuries. Radon tests were completed and within normal ranges. Annual heating inspection is completed. Center has a carbon monoxide detector. Monthly playground inspections were completed.

The playground has shade and a cushioned playground surfacing. The toys are in good repair as well as the climbing structure.

If the center does field tripes they utilize the Rides program.

Preschool and three-year-old room has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

There is a very positive atmosphere at this center, is very clean and well organized.

I would encourage Ms. William to reach out to her Childcare Resource and Referral Consultant for assistance with keeping records.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool has parent teacher conference.

They have many creative projects and contests between the classes such as decorating.

Staff appear dedicated and very involved with the kids in their care.

The staff ratio to child was exceptional.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant of those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards by 07/01/25
A full license will remain in effect at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.