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

Name of Center: St Joseph Sunrise Preschool **Enrollment:** 61 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22861

Street: 216 N Broadway **City:** New Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50659 **County:** Chickasaw

Mailing Address: 216 N Broadway, New Hampton, IA, 50659

Director's Name: Kim Ovel **Phone Number:** 641-394-2865

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kim Ovel **E-Mail:** wgallaher@stjoseph-nh.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 11-20-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-12-2022

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	0	0	20	23	43
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-28-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/20/23 I made an unannounced off year visit to St. Joseph Sunrise Preschool and the Kid Zone before and after school-age program in New Hampton. I met with Sara Sebastian, the director and lead three-year-old preschool teacher. Ms. Sebastian has a diploma in early childhood and she has her CDA. She started with the preschool in August 2023. Ms. Sebastian has previous experience in a childcare setting and with Head Start. I also met with Kim Ovel, the director of the Kid Zone program. She was named an on-site supervisor in October 2016 and became a director in May 2022. Ms. Ovel is the lead teacher for the before and after school/summer care program. Michele Nehls is the school principal. The program employs two preschool staff members and two childcare staff members.

Melody Kingsburg is the assistant in the preschool room. Janet Gorman is the second staff member for the Kid Zone program.

The program is in St. Joseph's Catholic School in New Hampton. The program previously licensed their four and five-year-old preschool program, but that is now regulated by the Department of Education. The Department of Health and Human Services licenses the three-year-old preschool program, the preschool childcare program and the before and after school program. The three-year-old preschool program has the option to meet on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am.

The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00-8:00 am and 3:10-5:30 pm. There are currently 61 children enrolled between childcare and preschool. The program also offers childcare during the summer months.

The preschool program operates out of two rooms. Windows provide natural lighting. The preschool room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as numbers and the children's art projects. There is an area for circle time and the classroom has a smart board. The childcare room is decorated with the children's art projects.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, transportation, art, dramatic play, woodworking, Play-Doh, Ipads, 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 were easily accessible to the children.

The before and after school childcare program uses bathrooms that are in the hallway. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, two urinals and two sinks. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. The preschool class would benefit from having a sink in the room.

The preschool room share a bathroom with the four-year-old preschool class. There are three toilets and two sinks in the bathroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

I visited the childcare program and the preschool room. Rooms were within ratio. The preschool children remain in the preschool room for childcare until school gets out.

Cots are mostly used to nap. There are mats available for when they have more children. I observed a torn mat. This should be discarded as once the foam is exposed it cannot be properly sanitized. Make sure blankets are stored in the cubbies so the blanket of one child does not touch the bedding of another child.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans are not developed for the before and after school program. The children mostly engage in free play because they are in a structured learning environment all day. Lesson plans were available for review in the preschool room.

There was a phone in the preschool classroom and the childcare room and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the program door in the childcare room. The evacuation diagram was posted near one of the doors in the preschool room, but it must be posted by both doors. A daily schedule was posted in both locations.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the childcare and preschool programs. I reviewed documentation of playground inspections. A radon test was completed in November 2022 and is good for two years. Results had not been received yet during my visit. The previous results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in both rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/12/22.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the food program guidelines. The children are released from childcare to eat breakfast through the school at 7:45 am. The school provides a snack to the preschool children during the morning hours and an afternoon snack to the after-school children. The childcare children eat lunch through the school. The children bring their own lunch on snow days and professional development days.

Snacks are eaten in the classrooms. The preschool children must wash their hands or use sanitizer before sitting down to eat snack. This did not occur. The children eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. Menus were available for review in both rooms. There is a refrigerator in both rooms and thermometers were present. Disposable products are used for snacks, so dishwashing is not necessary. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the childcare room. However, in the preschool room, snacks are not being stored appropriately. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal, or glass container.

The program uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables in both rooms. I observed tables being cleaned and sanitized in the preschool room and proper procedures are followed.

The parent information is located inside the preschool classroom and inside the Kid Zone childcare room. 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.

All the children use the preschool playground. The area is fenced in. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. The climbing equipment has slides, a climbing wall, rings and other activities. There are playhouses and swings. Benches are available. There is a greenhouse in this area. There is a path for riding toys and the children enjoy taking chalk outside. Trees provide shade and there is a small shade shelter.

Ms. Sebastian's file was reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. She did not have the Iowa background check (SING) but this has since been corrected. She did not have any documentation of Essentials training, first-aid, CPR and she did not have a signed employee statement in her file. A staff member has 90 days to complete these trainings upon hire.

The program uses Brightwheel for children's files.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. Ms. Ovel has been with the before and after school program since it started and has a great relationship with the children and families. Ms. Sebastian and Ms. Kingsbury had a great working routine with one another. They were both patient and flexible. All the staff members were actively engaged with the children during play. They maintained positive conversation with the children and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Ms. Sebastian had fun learning activities for the children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Sebastian states her assistant teacher, Melody Kingsbury, is great to work with. I observe these two to have a great routine and they work well together.

Ms. Sebastian states the lead teacher of the four-year-old preschool class has been very supportive of her and answers questions when necessary. She is a great resource.

Ms. Sebastian states they serve good families. They use the See Saw app to communicate with parents.

The preschool class had several active/disruptive children and the staff members were patient and flexible with their schedule.

The preschool children have conferences in the spring. The preschool classroom has a smart board that makes learning interactive and fun for the children.

The preschool and before and after school childcare programs meets a need for parents. This allows children to receive care on site so that transportation is not necessary.

The program was originally licensed only as a preschool but has expanded to provide childcare and a summer program.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Ovel has been with the program since it started and she provides consistency. She has a great knowledge of licensing standards and she is wonderful with the children.

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

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
The preschool children must wash their hands or use sanitizer before sitting down to eat snack. This did not occur.

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in the childcare room. However, in the preschool room, snacks are not being stored appropriately. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal, or glass container.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I would recommend a referral to AEA for a couple children in the preschool room. They may benefit from an additional staff member if disruptive behaviors continue.

An administrative change is being made to remove Whitnee Blume as a director.

*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.