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

Name of Center: St Paul Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 79 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18054

Street: 610 15th St **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 610 15th St, Ames, IA, 50010

Director's Name: Lori Jenks **Phone Number:** 515-233-1914

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** education@saintpaulames.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-27-2023

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:** 08-13-2022

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

Date Inspected: 02-09-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at lest every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General		10	37		47
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-11-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 10-27-23. The Director was present at times through the visit and was needed to teach as well.

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.

This preschool meets in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Lori Jenks has been the director since this preschool program started in 2003 and meets qualifications for this role.

The preschool has changed their hours and sessions; they no longer provide before care or afternoon sessions. .The preschool offers AM sessions only on M-T-Th-F. The four year old class is from 8:30 am to 11:30 am on M-T-Th-F. The three year old class offers either a M-Th or T-F session from 8:45 am to 11:15 am or a M-T-Th-F session from 8:45 am to 11:30 am. The center still provides a two year old class and is now offering two sessions of this, either M-Th or T-F, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. They no longer provide a lunch bunch.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum, Handwriting without tears curriculum and gold assessment curriculum. The center implements new ideas for engaging the children that they find at training or online. Classrooms were nicely organized and clean. Staff are in ratio. There is a variety of toys/activities. Staff were observed to maintain good structure in the classrooms as well as nurturing/engaging with the children. There are handwashing posters hung and good handwashing technique was observed.

Parents provide snacks from the food groups and snacks are serve in the classroom family-style Medications are stored securely. First aide kits were readily accessible. Radon was tested in Spring of 2023 and tested below 4.0 cutoff. HVAC is maintained by the church. There are carbon monoxide detectors in all classrooms.

Tornado/Fire plans are posted and drills documented to have been completed.

There is a playground that is enclosed with chain link fencing on the same property as the church. The playground was in good condition but playground checks were missing.

There is not daily transportation provided, and parents volunteer for field trips.

Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, tornado/fire plans and non-smoking signs were conspicuously posted. This program has a well-established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center provides a needed program in the community. The Director listens to the community and what the wants and needs are of the community and adapts the program to help meet these needs.

The director has been at this center since it opened. Many of the staff have been at this center for several years, to include staff longevity of 20 years, 10+, and 5+ years.

There is positive communication between the staff and parents. The parents are encouraged to attend field trips and participate in activities at the center.

The center has good support from the church and from their board. The congregation from the church are a strong support as well.

The teachers work well with each other and are a support to each other. The staff are committed and dedicated to providing quality care and preschool to the children. The staff are nurturing.

The director is organized and is invested in providing a quality preschool.

The director is NAC certified.

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

An updated Fire inspection was needed to approve this report, otherwise there were no aspects of the operation that fell below standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon testing was completed in June of 2022. All rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected every fall by the church.

Parents bring in snacks and the preschool ensures they are creditable under the CACFP guidelines.

*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.