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

Name of Center: St Paul Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 38 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18040

Street: 1217 4th Ave S **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 1217 4th Ave S, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Jessica Ferry **Phone Number:** 515-955-7208

On-Site Supervisor(s): Anna Zimmerman **E-Mail:** dawn.vought@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-04-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **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: 09-06-2022

Comments :

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			21	29	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 09-18-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the St. Paul Lutheran Preschool on 09-04-24 where I met with the center director Jessica Ferry. This program is located in the St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Dodge. Jessica took over the director role at the start of the 2024 school year and is will qualified for the position with extensive experience, education, and training in early childhood education. Anna also has extensive experience and training in early childhood education having been with the program for 20+ years. The center provides preschool programming for 4 and 3 year old children, and wrap-around daycare for children in the afternoon until the end of the school day. The 4 year old preschool class meets daily, and 3 year old preschool is provided in two sessions with one meeting MWF morning, and the other on TTH. There are currently 38 children enrolled in the preschool classes, and 8 who attend the wrap around daycare program. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit with the exception of the after school programming.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. The program makes use of two classrooms for the preschool programming, one of which is then used for the afternoon wrap around program. Both classrooms were observed to be clean and well maintained with no concerns related to maintenance. Both rooms have windows along the exterior wall that provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and secondary emergency egress. Both rooms have sinks in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located off the main hallway and children are escorted to the bathroom as needed. Both rooms have an open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the use of furniture and play structures. The materials are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas. Both classrooms have an elevated play center loft.

There did appear to be some limited changes to the arrangement of activity centers and also having a strong focus on learning materials rather than general play materials. Each activity center was stocked with materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Both classrooms had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted. These were followed during the visit with classrooms moving through teacher led group learning, self-directed play, and chapel service. Good behavior management techniques were observed. The center uses a general program of positive supports with Red/Green choices and Bucket Filling. During the visit the teachers also used proactive techniques of praising positive behavior, transition routines, and redirection. When speaking with the children the teachers used calm and encouraging tones of voice.

Good health and safety practices and procedures were observed on the day of my visit. The teachers did ensure that the children washed their hands as needed such as following restroom use, prior to eating, and other times such as after blowing their nose. Both classrooms maintain first aid kits and while each does need to be replenished when taken as a whole and considering access to supplies in the school office there are sufficient materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. One issue that was noted was that the location of the first aid kit in Jessica's classroom had been moved but the signage had not. Chemical cleaners and other items that could be a risk to children are stored in areas inaccessible to the children.

The school has two playground areas with one for the school age children, and one for the preschool age children. Both have climbing structures which are appropriate to the developmental levels of the children making use of them. The

equipment was in good repair and those elements which had been cited in the prior report had been repaired. The pea gravel used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures has develop a hard pan layer and either needs to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material before the structure is used. It is noted that this has been cited before and is a common issue for pea gravel which requires a high degree of maintenance to ensure the material remains of sufficient depth. In addition to the climbing structures there is a large open grassy area, and a paved area where children can play. The playground is enclosed by fencing due to being near a busy road and the fence was in good repair. There are trees to provide shade. Additional toys and materials are available for the children to play with.

For those children that attend the wrap around program the center provides lunch. Lunch is prepared by the school cafeteria. A menu of the planned meals is posted and good food handling practices were observed. The parents continue to take it in turn to provide snacks. A list of recommended snack items is provided to parents, and a menu of items that is served is maintained. A limited supply of snack items is maintained at the center to supplement as needed and good food storage practices were in place.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. In reviewing child files that center has obtained enrollment and contact information for of the children but is still within the first 30 days of operation for the year and working to gather physicals. In reviewing staff files background checks could not be found, and a pre-employment physical is needed for one new teacher. The issue of background checks not being available was cited in the prior report. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates emergency fire and tornado drill records for the prior year could not be located. Both of these issues were cited in the prior year and some of the issue may have been that some records were maintained by the program, and others by the school. It is recommended that the Jessica maintain the required licensing documentation with her files so that these can be easily found and reviewed during future licensing visits.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has seen a significant change with the prior director having retired and Jessica taking over as the new teacher and director. Jessica has a wealth of experience and easily stepped into the position maintaining the high level of standards regarding the curriculum implementation and focus on developing school readiness skills.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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.
-- Documentation of drills for the prior year could not be located on the day of the visit.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-- The fall surfacing of the outdoor playground has developed a hard pan layer and needs to be aerated before climbing structures are used by the children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant within 30 days of the receipt of this report identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing

standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.