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

Name of Center: Sacred Heart School Pre-K **Enrollment:** 97 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30276

Street: 1111 4th Ave W **City:** Spencer Iowa **Zip** 51301 **County:** Clay

Mailing Address: PO Box 817, Spencer, IA, 51301

Director's Name: Gracie Dammann **Phone Number:** 712-580-6350

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amanda Frerk **E-Mail:** gdammann@spencersacredheart.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-12-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-02-2024

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

Date Inspected: 09-18-2023

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.) X 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		48	55	50	153
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 04-19-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An annual visit was made to the Sacred Heart School Pre-K program on 04-12-24 and spoke with center director Gracie Damman. Gracie became director on 08-01-22 for the center/school age program. Gracie has worked as an in-home childcare provider for 10 years and has Surgical Tech degree. Amanda Frerk has a diploma in Early Childhood and has been with the center since 2017. Makayla Francis is the lead worker for the summer program and after school program. The program is located at the Sacred Heart School in Spencer. The program provides childcare and before and after school services to children that are at least 2 years of age through school age. The childcare centers hours are Monday thru Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm whereas the summer school age programs hours are Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5:30pm. Summer school will be opened from 06-03-24 to 08-16-24. During the school year they only serve the school age program in the afternoons Monday thru Friday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm when the school is open. The program opened in increments to where the school age aftercare program opened in 2013, the school age summer program opened in 2016, and the early childcare program opened in 2018. The childcare program is looking at in the fall of 2024 starting to serve infants 3 months to age 2years.

There are 97 children enrolled(37 in the childcare and 60 school agers) in the program. 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. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

The childcare program makes use of 4 classrooms in an annex, lunchroom and the gymnasium in the school for the after school/summer programming. Each room was observed to be clean with no issues due to maintenance. Each of the classrooms in the annex area has restroom facilities directly accessible from the room. Each room has a large windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light. Sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room is arranged so that there are no blind areas and the children have ample room to move and play in activity centers. The toys and materials present were appropriate to the ages of the children present in the classrooms and were observed to be in good repair. The program uses a Christian based curriculum which is ABC-Jesus Loves Me.

Each of the rooms in the center has the following areas throughout the room for the children to explore and learn: library, art, blocks, toys, puzzles, puppets, grocery store and dramatic play. Children have access to bathrooms if needed. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were numbers, helper's list, colors, children's artwork and the alphabet. Good staff interaction with the children throughout the day. Staff provide a caring environment for the children. Throughout the center staff are very attentive to the children’s needs and concerns. The program is in the process of updating staff/child files.

The aftercare program serves 5 to 12 in age. They use the gym after school from 3:30pm to 5:30pm Monday thru Friday and has a variety of centers for the children. They will assist in helping with any homework. They also play outside a lot. In the summer the program is from 7:30am to 5:30pm. They do academic activities in the morning and do a variety of field trips in the afternoon which they either walk or use a school bus for transportation. The summer program begins June 3, 2024 to August 16, 2024.

All required postings were present and in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Radon testing needs to be completed as it expired. Fuel Burning Appliance the center is all electric so no inspection documentation needed. The childcare program updated thier playground to where they have a new climbing structure and rubber mulch for surfacing and turf as they are unable to grow grass in the area and is muddy and children are unable to use part of the playground. The school age playground surfacing was also updated and has rubber mulch.

Good health and safety procedures was observed. Each room has a first aid kit. Each kit was stored in an area inaccessible to the children, had signs posted to mark their location, and were stocked with materials to address most common first aid needs. Good medication storage practices were in place, and documentation was present for medications that had been given.

The Center follows the CACFP food program and rotates it's menus monthly. In October 2022, the program changed in their meals from Sacred Heart making lunches to contracting with McRearys Catering to prepare the centers lunches. The program now prepares breakfast and snacks. Sacred Heart school will continue to provide lunch and snacks for the school age program and summer program. Menus were posted. In the fall of 2024 the childcare program may go back to using the school to provide breakfast and lunches.

The center's goals are to change to add infant care to where there will be two infant rooms. 3 months to 1 year old and a 1 year to 2 year old room. Then they will have a two year old room and a 3 year old room. Also to get on the IQ4K program, and full enrollment.

Ms Dammann felt the strengths of the center is that they have a good team of staff who are willing to assist each other. The staff also have good communication with the children and their families. The program currently has low turnover and partners well with the school and AEA. The center is flexible with staff needing time off, and tried to treat staff as a family. Center uses Pro Care app.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

1. Center displays the children's art work in all the rooms.

2. Center is organized.

3. Children's toys are accessible and at their level in all the rooms.

4. Center has child size furniture throughout the room.

5. Positive interaction with the children.

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: 7

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: 3

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 4

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA,

Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 4

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant by 06-05-24 confirming that those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards are now in compliance.

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.