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

Name of Center: St Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool **Enrollment:** 195 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43822

Street: 200 2nd St Sw **City:** Waukon Iowa **Zip** 52172 **County:** Allamakee

Mailing Address: 200 2nd St SW, Waukon, IA, 52172

Director's Name: Kieran Walsh **Phone Number:** 563-568-2415

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katherine Fahey **E-Mail:** kwalsh@st-pats.pvt.k12.ia.us,kfahey@st-pats.pvt.k12.ia.us,

Date(s) of Visit: 09-21-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **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: 02-01-2021

Comments : Compliance on 05/20/21

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	16	34	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-26-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/21/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool in Waukon. I met with Kieran Walsh, the director and lead teacher for the preschool. Katie Fahey is also the on-site supervisor and the principal at St. Patrick's School. Ms. Fahey was not present the day of my visit. Ms. Walsh has been with the program since March 2021. She has an associate degree in an unrelated field. Ms. Walsh has completed the director class through Hawkeye Community College. Crystal Corwin and Michelle Byrnes are the associates in the preschool room. Ms. Byrnes started in August 2023 and works on Tuesday and Thursday and Ms. Corwin started in August 2022 and works on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There are eleven employees who work in the latchkey/summer program and three employees in the preschool program.

The preschool program is in the St. Patrick Catholic School lower building. The latchkey program is in the St. Patrick Catholic School upper building in the gym. The preschool program operates during the school year, Monday through Friday from 8:15 am until 3:15 pm. The preschool program serves three and four-year-old children. Parents have the option of sending their children Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. The morning latchkey program operates from 7:00-8:15 am and the after-school program operates from 3:15-5:30 pm. There are currently 30 children enrolled in preschool and 165 children enrolled in the latchkey program. The preschool children can also use the latchkey program.

The program operates a summer care program so they provide care all year around for children. During the summer they serve children who are four years old and older. The summer program operates out of the gym.

An inspection of both spaces was completed. The program was in ratio during the latchkey and preschool programs during my visit. Windows provide natural lighting in the preschool room. Artificial lighting is used in the gym. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist in the learning process, such as the alphabet, numbers, colors and shapes. There is an area for circle time. The preschool has a Promethean Smart board.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, woodworking, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table 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. Cots are used to nap in the preschool class.

There is one bathroom in the preschool classroom with one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The latchkey children use bathrooms outside of the gym. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and one sink. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, one urinal and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool classroom started using a new curriculum in the preschool class, "Making Reading Heavenly" to work on letters and they have started using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. A lesson plan was available for review in the preschool room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers posted in the preschool classroom. The emergency numbers for the latchkey room are posted on the parent board. The rooms use two-way radios to communicate. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the preschool room and the gym. A daily schedule was posted in the preschool room and on the parent board for the latchkey program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the preschool class and before and after school program. You should practice the fire drill and the tornado drill on separate dates in the latchkey program. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was recently completed in September 2023 in the preschool room. Radon testing is good for two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. There is a radon mitigation system in the preschool room that was installed in November 2012

A radon test was completed in September 2023 for the latchkey program but they have not received the results yet. The previous level was 21.5 pCi/L. Far above the recommended EPA level. The school was in contact with a radon mitigation specialist and conducted a long-term radon test. If the results remain high, they will follow through with additional recommendations from the radon specialist.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed in both buildings and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the preschool room on top of the cubbies and in the latchkey program on the east wall of the art room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/01/21 with compliance on 05/20/21.

The preschool is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Lunch is prepared by St. Patrick's School cafeteria staff and delivered to the preschool room. The school provides the lunch menu and it was posted in the room. Children are allowed to bring their lunches from home. The program must monitor the food brought from home and supplement them as necessary so they meet CACFP guidelines. The preschool program also offers an afternoon snack. The preschool had documentation of snack menus. Parents donate snacks at the beginning of the school year and it is posted on a donation board in the school when more snacks are needed. Ms. Walsh makes the snack menu based off what is donated. The children are offered a morning snack that they refer to as a "breakfast" snack when they arrive for the program if they are hungry. The program did have a breakfast snack menu. The children eat lunch and snacks in the classroom. Dishes are sent back to the kitchen to be washed. Staff members are dishing out the food for the children.

During the morning latchkey program, the children can bring breakfast from home to eat. Once they are released, they can eat breakfast through the school. The latchkey program serves an afternoon snack and a snack menu was present. Disposable products are used.

During the summer program the children are served breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. They receive lunch from the school. The program receives breakfast and snack foods as a donation from the Dollar Fresh store in town and the school also provides these items. Menus were available for review.

There is a kitchenette in the preschool room. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is also a sink available in this area. The latchkey program uses a room off the gym that has a refrigerator and sink. A thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The preschool program uses Clorox disinfecting wipes to sanitize the food tables. They have a ten second dwell time. The latchkey program is using Seventh Generation Professional Disinfecting Wipes. This product has a ten minute dwell time, which means you must use enough wipes to keep the table wet for ten minutes. I would recommend a different product with a shorter dwell time. It would take quite a few wipes to keep the table wet for ten minutes.

The preschool playground area is fenced in. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment that had slides and other activities. There are also swings, a picnic table and benches. The children are not allowed on the monkey bars or the fire poles because of their ages. Trees provide shade.

The school age playground is mostly fenced in. They used pea gravel for surface cushioning and there is also a large grassy area. There is a large piece of climbing equipment that had rings and monkey bars. There are also swings. There is a balance beam. Theare benches and a picnic table in the area. Trees provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the preschool classroom. 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.

The parent board for the latchkey program is located on a bulletin board outside of the gym. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung.

I reviewed children files and they were in good condition.

I reviewed staff files. Four files did not have fingerprint results and one staff member is overdue for fingerprints. Two staff members did not have SING background checks and one staff member is overdue for SING. Two staff members did not have updated universal precautions training. One staff member did not have first aid or CPR training and three staff members took the on-line first aid and CPR training but have not tested out in person yet.

The program has not updated their professional development policy yet. This was cited in last year's report also. There are no longer full time and part time employees. All employees have the same training requirements. All new staff members must complete first aid, CPR, mandatory reporter, universal precautions and Essentials training within 90 days of hire.

Staff members in the latchkey program were observed to have great teamwork. During the latchkey program the staff members were spread out in the gym to provide careful supervision. They moved around the space and interacted with all the children. They greeted the parents and children as they arrived. They introduced the children to activities and had great interaction.

The staff members in the preschool room also had terrific teamwork. The staff members greeted the children and parents. They were nurturing to children who were upset when their parents left. The children were offered a breakfast snack. While the children were engaged in free play staff members offered them choices. They talked with the children about sharing. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. They read children books and used repetition to teach the children. They danced with the children during the morning group meeting. Positive direction was used when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The school-age program has greatly improved their organization. Staff and children files are in easy to read binders and they keep a licensing notebook for important paperwork. The preschool program has always been well organized and prepared for visits.

Ms. Walsh states they started using a new curriculum in the preschool class, "Making Reading Heavenly" to work on letters and they have started using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness.

Ms. Walsh states they provide a well-rounded preschool class for children and the children are good helpers in the classroom.

Ms. Walsh states they have a good administrative team. She states Ms. Fahey is supportive and involved in the programs and has been good to work with.

Ms. Walsh has completed the director course through Hawkeye Community College. Her enthusiasm in the classroom is contagious and the children respond in a positive manner. Michelle Byrnes was the assistant in the preschool class the day of my visit and she was also observed to be enthusiastic and have great interaction with the children.

Staff members in the school-age program also had great interaction with the children. They were spread out in the gym, moved around to provide careful supervision and introduced activities to the children.

The program has a summer childcare program that has been successful. The parents appreciate the program.

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

109.4(2)e: Written plan for ongoing staff development that complies with 441 IAC 109.7.
The program has not updated their professional development policy yet. This was cited in last year's report also. There are no longer full time and part time employees. All employees have the same training requirements. All new staff members must complete first aid, CPR, mandatory reporter, universal precautions and Essentials training within 90 days of hire.

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: 5

Four files did not have fingerprint results and one staff member is overdue for fingerprints. Two staff members did not have SING background checks and one staff member is overdue for SING.

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
Two staff members did not have updated universal precautions training. One staff member did not have first aid or CPR training and three staff members took the on-line first aid and CPR training but have not tested out in person yet.

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.

*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.