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

Name of Center: Plymouth Nursery School **Enrollment:** 121 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28375

Street: 4126 Ingersoll Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50312 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312

Director's Name: Emily Rademacher **Phone Number:** 515-255-3271

On-Site Supervisor(s): Nancy Landis **E-Mail:** jvanwyk@plymouthchurch.com
erademacher@plymouthchurch.com

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

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-10-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years, completed by Des Moines Fire Dept

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			100		100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-05-2025

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 12-12-24.. Emily Rademacher, director was present for the entire visit.

Plymouth Nursery School has been in operation since 1954. This program is one of the longest running preschools in Iowa. The preschool is located within the Plymouth Congregational Church. There are five classrooms and the center also has an outdoor playground and use of the church's gym. Children ranging from three through five years of age are served in the preschool. There is a play group that serves two year old children. Emily Rademacher assumed the role of on-site supervisor July, 2023 and now director. She has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Reading. She has prior experience with teaching pre-k through 2nd gr. Nancy Landis is on-site supervisor; and has been working in the program for many years. Both meet the criteria for their positions.

Plymouth Nursery School has evolved over the years to best serve their family's needs. The program offers playtime for two year old children as well as a playtime plus class for children who are 2 1/2 years old. The program offers a three year old program, a prekindergarten program, a pre-k plus program and a pre-k extension program.

This preschool is a school year only program, operating from September through May.

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.

Room Observations/Activities: The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum by philosophy and uses the Iowa Learning Standards for other aspects of programming. The classrooms had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. The staff were in ratio and maintained structure in the rooms. The rooms were nicely organized and themes fit for the seasons. The center primarily uses email to communicate with parents. The center is very clean/organized; the classrooms were decorated in monthly theme; that was a group collaboration between teacher and the children.

Nutrition Practices: Parents provide snacks/lunches. The program provides Milk and water.

Health and Safety: Purrell and soapy water are used to clean and sanitize. Mediations are kept securely in the classroom and administered by staff. There were handwashing posters throughout the center. Staff and children were observed to utilized good handwashing technique.. There are first aid kits in all rooms. The OSS could not late documentation of radon testing and will secure this testing. The HVAC is maintained by the church--and was believed to have been inspected 8/24. This program has a boiler for heating. There are carbon monoxide detectors present. Fire/Tornado drills were documented completed monthly as required. Discussion took place regarding the center's disaster plan; with staff training upon hire and then annually thereafter for the center disaster plans.

Playground: Playground checks were documented to have been completed monthly. The playground is located in the

center atrium-type area of the building. There are play structures and shade structures on the play equipment. There is mulch safety servicing. The playground was observed this year to be snow covered.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Information regarding Mandatory Reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and no-smoking signs were conspicuously posted as required. Eight child files were reviewed with one missing emergency contact information for the child's dentist; Five staff files were reviewed; documentation for staff physicals was emailed after the visit; otherwise containing all the required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The preschool benefits a great deal from her experience and expertise.

The classrooms are well equipped with age appropriate supplies and furnishings.

The preschool focuses on emotional, social, physical and educational development and is committed to learning through play.

The preschool is family based and family involved. The level of parent involvement is strong, as well as extended family support for the children who attend.

Many of the staff have a degree and all of the staff have some college credits.

The preschool is a long running program and has a solid reputation in the community; they are enrolling 4th generation children.

The preschool receives positive feedback from the schools that the children are ready for kindergarten.

The preschool receives positive feedback from parents on their annual survey.

The preschool has worked jointly with the church on security measures and taking steps to make the preschool more secure.

The preschool has a strong relationship with the church.

Enrollment is strong.

The parents are engaged and there is a sense of community within the program.

The program has a strong board of directors.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: One child record reviewed did not contain emergency contact information for dentist.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The last radon testing was completed in November of 2022. All rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The program space was decorated nicely displaying class projects that created the monthly themes. The staff are invested in the program and there is a nurturing feel to the center's programming.

*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.