Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Grace Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 30290

Address: 1407 W 5th St, Storm Lake, IA, 50588

County: Buena Vista

Director's Name: Anne Mohr

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7127325005

E-Mail: lutherangrace1951@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/15/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/28/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Tuesday		9:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Wednesday		9:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Thursday		9:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Friday		9:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			24		24
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On January 15, 2026, I completed an unannounced licensing visit at Grace Lutheran Preschool. During the visit, I met with the center director, Anne Mohr. Anne is highly qualified for her position, bringing extensive experience and training in early childhood programming. She has been with the program since 2003. The classroom assistant, Julie Bonjes, also has several years of experience supporting preschool programming.

Grace Lutheran Preschool operates in a single classroom located in the lower level of Grace Lutheran Church and is overseen by a board of directors from the church. The program offers preschool-only sessions, one for three-year-old children and one for four-year-old children. At the time of the visit, there were 23 children enrolled across the two sessions, served by two teachers. There were 15 children present at the time of my visit.

The center implements a theme-based curriculum that is complemented by a Christian curriculum. This approach allows children to engage in developmentally appropriate thematic learning activities while also incorporating Christian values and teachings into the daily program.

The classroom is a large, open space with well-defined activity centers created through the placement of furniture and play structures. Equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate for the ages of the children present. The classroom includes a dramatic play barn structure and an indoor climbing structure. The room was clean and well-maintained, with no concerns noted. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum was posted on the parent board at the classroom entrance.

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During the visit, I observed center time and circle time. Staff actively engaged children through songs, activities, and curriculum-based learning. Teachers demonstrated strong practices in promoting school readiness through both structured activities and informal interactions. Examples included asking questions during self-directed play to reinforce concepts such as math and patterns. The program uses positive behavioral supports, including routines, transition activities, and recognition of positive behaviors. Both staff members maintained calm, encouraging tones, resulting in a positive classroom environment.

Health and safety practices were consistently implemented. Restrooms are located down the main hallway, and children are escorted and supervised for restroom use and handwashing. A classroom sink supports handwashing and food preparation. Teachers reinforced good hygiene practices, including handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes. The first aid kit was well-stocked and available to treat minor injuries. Medication policies are in place, although medications are not routinely administered. Allergy response plans were available for children with identified allergies.

The program follows CACFP guidelines. Food storage practices were appropriate, and a small refrigerator is available for cold holding. Teachers eat with children, modeling healthy habits and providing supervision during snacks.

Outdoor play is provided in a designated section of the parking lot, which is secured with cones. Additional play materials such as balls and scooters are available, and shade is provided by the building and trees. Ms. Mohr indicates that they did address the playground issues to make the surface in line with expectations. I did share with her that other centers have been utilizing a garden tiller in the Spring to help the playground from developing a hard surface.

Emergency preparedness practices are in place. Tornado and fire drills are completed monthly. Radon testing and annual furnace inspections have been completed and documented.
All child files were reviewed and found to contain required documentation. Inspection logs and certificates were current and available.

Grace Lutheran Preschool continues to demonstrate strong compliance with licensing standards. The program provides a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environment that supports school readiness and positive social-emotional development.

Goals are to continue to provide children the opportunity to learn and grow through play and other activities.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This program is recognized in the community for its quality care, provided by staff who genuinely enjoy their work and demonstrate strong expertise.

By offering two-hour sessions, this program addresses a key need for flexible preschool options within the community.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended at this time. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

This worker will be making a referral to their CCR&R consultant to assist with IPOWER and other suggestions that are

appropriate.

Date: 01/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.