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

Name of Center: Immanuel Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 21453

Street: 4820 Oster Pkwy **City:** Cedar Falls Iowa **Zip** 50613 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 4820 Oster Pkwy, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

Director's Name: Jackie Illian **Phone Number:** 319-260-2005

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jackie Illian **E-Mail:** immanuelpreschoolcf@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-14-2023

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

Date Inspected: 05-18-2023

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.) 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	0	0	28	0	28
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:** 09-14-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/14/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool in Cedar Falls. I met with Jacqueline "Jackie" Illian, the director and lead teacher for the four-year-old preschool class. Ms. Illian has a BA in elementary and early childhood education and a MA in educational leadership. She started with the program in August 2017 and became the director in August 2018. Elena Cafaro is Ms. Illian's assistant. Anne Dawson is the lead teacher for the three-year old preschool class and Chaeyoung Simmer is her associate. They have three additional staff members to care for the children in the afternoon. The program has hired a new lead teacher for the four-year-old class who will start next week. Her name is Jenny Bantolinas. This will allow Ms. Illian to focus on administrative duties.

The preschool is in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. They were given permission to open in this location on 08/24/16. The program was previously under the Department of Education and became licensed under the Department of Human Services in 2012. The program offers a four-year-old preschool class Monday through Friday from 8:15-11:15 am and a second class 12:15-3:15 pm. The program contracts with the Waterloo School System to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program. They also offer a three and four-year-old preschool program on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-11:00 am. The program is offering before and after school care for the children who attend preschool. The extended hours are from 7:00-8:15 am and 11:15 am until 5:00 pm. There are 42 children enrolled. The children attend chapel each week.

The program operates out of two classrooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children's families and with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, listening, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, sensory table, dramatic play, writing, math, science, Play-Doh, 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.

There is a sink in Ms. Illian's room and handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in her room also with one toilet and one sink. Procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms outside of the room. The boy's bathroom has one toilet, two urinals and two sinks. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources are used to create lesson plans. GOLD assessment tools are used for the four-year-old children. The four-year-old children are also assessed using the Brigance Development test at the beginning of the year and literacy screening at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. The program incorporates a Religion curriculum into the program. They use Faith Alive, Voyages and One in Christ for the religious teachings. The program follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). Lesson plans were available for review. They have parent-teacher conferences each semester.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the rooms. A daily schedule was posted in each room. The before and after school care daily schedule is posted in the entrance.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in August 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the sink in the four-year-old classroom. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/28/23.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

The children who stay for care use mats to nap. The program purchased new mats that are two inches thick for the comfort of the children.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but they follow the guidelines. Parents are given a snack calendar and they are responsible for providing the morning snack. Parents are provided a list of approved snacks. If the snack does not meet the guidelines the program is able to supplement. The snack is served in the classroom. Snack menus were posted and snacks are recorded as they are brought in.

Children who stay for childcare bring a lunch from home. Their lunch is reviewed to make sure it meets CACFP standards and the program can supplement if necessary. The program provides the children with an afternoon snack. I reviewed menus and CACFP standards are being followed. Food items are stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

Dishes are either washed in the kitchen or in the classroom using the three-step method. They use a refrigerator in the kitchen and a thermometer was present.

The children use a grassy area to the east of the church for outside time. They have a shed for their riding toys and other items for the children to play with. They have storage bins inside the entrance for play items and a dramatic play set.

The parent board is in the classroom near the cubbies in the four-year-old room and there is also a parent board in the entrance. 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.

Staff members were observed to have terrific teamwork. Staff members moved around the rooms the provide each child with attention and to provide supervision. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations and used fun activities to teach the children about colors, letters and shapes. The provided the children with praise and maintained positive conversation with them. They used positive redirection when necessary and were comforting when a child was upset. Staff members removed toys that were put in a child's mouth so they can be sanitized. Staff members offered the children choices. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is using the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents, send pictures and for parents to sign the children in and out of the program.

Ms. Illian states they provide the children a lot of individualized attention. They work one on one with children and work with the parents. They work with the strengths of each child and foster independent thinking and focus on the child's own interests.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Illian states the before and after childcare has been a great asset to families.

The program contracts with the Waterloo School System to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program during the morning and afternoon hours. They also offer a three and four-year-old preschool program.

The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with special needs if necessary. The speech therapist has a space in the church and is available full time.

The entrance is decorated with the children's artwork and with pictures of the kids.

The preschool incorporates a religious curriculum into the program.

Ms. Illian completes assessments on the children and has parent-teacher conferences twice each year.

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

N/A

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.