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

Name of Center: Gehlen Catholic Preschool/Daycare **Enrollment:** 17 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 36599

Street: 709 Plymouth St NE **City:** Le Mars Iowa **Zip** 51031 **County:** Plymouth

Mailing Address: 709 Plymouth St NE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

Director's Name: Andrea Loutsch **Phone Number:** 712-546-4181

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alison Bickford **E-Mail:** aloutsch@gehlencatholic.org ABICKFORD@GEHLENCATHOLIC.ORG

Date(s) of Visit: 02-20-2025

Licensing Visit **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:** 12-08-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-18-2024

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			54		54
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 02-24-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited the center on 1-20-25 and spoke with Alison Bickford, onsite supervisor as Andrea Loutsch director/principal was not available. Ms Loutsch has an Early Childhood/Elementary Education degree and several years of experience working with children. Gehlen Catholic Preschool/Daycare is located in Gehlen Catholic School. The center operates Monday-Friday 11:30am to 3:15pm for the 4/5 year olds. Every 2nd Wednesday is an early out. The program uses 1 of 2 rooms. Their numbers had decresased with the 2024-2025 school year, so they were did not open the other room for childcare. Program serves children ages 4/5 year olds after school childcare from 11:00am to 3:15pm Monday thru Friday. The program is apart of the Preschool Initiative program which occurs from 8:15am to 11:00am. Then from 11:00am to 11:30am the children who stay have religion. At 11:00am to 3:15pm is the preschool aftercare.

There are 17 children enrolled in the program. The center continues in cleaning toys that children use. There are sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the rooms were colors, shapes, five senses, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. Observed staff assisting children with a variety of activities, talking to the children throughout the visit, reminding the children about rules, and engaging the children in activities. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum, ages and stages, and Gold assessments. The school now has a mental health specialist this school year which helps if children have needs that require this service that they have access to.

Nutritious snacks and lunch are provided by program rather than by Gehlen Catholic School. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. The school provides lunches for the children. Menus were posted and are provided to the parents. Refrigerators are clean and kept at appropriate temperatures.

Center utilizes a school nurse to administer medication, however, at this time meds are not needed. If the nurse is not available Allison can give meds as she has completed the medication training. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating snacks. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test is complete. Center has a radon mitigation system. Annual heating inspection is complete. Good sanitary procedures are followed. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The have a fenced in, grass covered playground. Shade is available on the playground. They also have access to a gym when they are unable to go outside due to the weather. Outside they have a sandbox, house, riding toys, music area, and a shed to hold the new equipment. Due to inclement weather as it was icy and snow covered the playground was not reviewed. The program was viewed this past fall. The program uses a cement area for the kids when they go outside to play.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The center does not transport the children. They utilize school buses for field trips.

The center has staff who do extra training's above what is required to make sure they are meeting their needs of the

children/families that they serve.

The centers goals are to continue to make sure children are ready for TK or Kindergarten in the fall as well as to increase their numbers. They utilize the GOLD assessments, AEA, Mental Health Specialist within the school to do extra help for children. The program is working on getting on the IQ4K childcare program which took the place of the QRS childcare assessment.

Strengths of the center is that they have staff have been with the program for many years. Staff also have a good relationship with the children and their families. Because the staff are qualified teachers the children are learning beyond preschool hours. Center works with CCRR and AEA on a regular basis. The program also utilizes United Way to help with funding's to help parents. Program offers fieldtrips for the preschoolers which are at no extra costs to parents.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center is on a QRS level 4 out of 5.

Center sends home a newsletter each month to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program. They also utilizes a SeeSaw app in case they have to go to virtual learning.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

The classroom is well organized
Mental Health Specialist within the school.
Mental Health Specialist within the school.

Very positive interaction with the children.

Display children’s art work in the room.

Center has child size furniture.

Center has parent/teacher conferences two times a year to inform parents of their child's progress and what they need to work on.

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: 1

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center will email consultant by 03-20-25 confirming that all items below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended 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.