Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Paul Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 18040

Address: 1217 4th Ave S, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

County: Webster

Director's Name: Jessica Ferry

On-Site Supervisor: Anna Zimmerman

Phone Number: 5159557208

E-Mail: JFerry@stpaulschoolfd.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/15/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/30/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Friday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
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			21	29	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the St. Paul Lutheran Preschool on 09-15-26 where I met with the center director Jessica Ferry, and 3 year old classroom lead teacher, Anna Zimmerman leading. Jessica took over the director role at the start of the 2024 school year and is will qualified for the position with extensive experience, education, and training in early childhood education. Anna also has extensive experience and training in early childhood education having been with the program for 20+ years. The center provides preschool programming for 4 and 3 year old children, and wrap-around daycare for children in the afternoon until the end of the school day for preschool age children. The 4 year old preschool class meets daily, and the 3 year old preschool is provided in two sessions with one meeting MWF morning, and the other on TTH. There are currently 25 children enrolled in the preschool classes, and 3 who attend the wrap around daycare program. It is noted that the school has resumed offering an After School program in 2025 for school age children which is operated as a separate program exempt from licensing requirements given that it it open to school age children only and offered for a nominal fee of approximately $6/day. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit with the exception of the after school programming.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. The program makes use of two classrooms for the preschool programming, one of which is then used for the afternoon wrap around program. Both classrooms were observed to be clean and well maintained with no concerns related to maintenance. Both rooms have windows along the exterior wall that provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and secondary emergency egress. Both rooms have sinks in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located off the main hallway and children are escorted to the bathroom as needed. Both rooms have an open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the use of furniture and play structures. Both classrooms have an elevated loft play center. The materials are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming & Interaction:
Both classrooms have a strong focus on curriculum development and implementation designed to help children build school readiness skills, and also includes a faith based component.
Both classrooms followed the posted schedule and curriculum moving through large and small group teacher lead activities, large motor play, snack time, and child directed play.
The program uses proactive behavioral supports such as routines, reminders, and helper jobs. During the visit Anna was observed to be very comforting to a child that was upset, and Jessica made excellent use of guided problem solving to help children resolve an issue.
Ratio was maintained as required with teachers in the classroom, and a teacher escorting children to the restroom as needed.

Health & Safety
Good hand washing practices were observed with staff supervising and assisting children as needed to ensure they washed their hands in an effective manner after restroom use, before eating, and other times as needed.
First aid kits are maintained in the classrooms with additional supplies in the office. The program also has access to a school nurse that rotates between other schools.
Chemical cleaners, medications, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk are maintained where they are not accessible to children.

Playground:
The school does have two playground areas one of which includes a large open grassy area, and a preschool age climbing structure. The school is responsible to maintain the equipment and the teachers do review the equipment and restrict children from using those elements that require maintenance.

Nutrition:
For those children that attend the wrap around program the center provides lunch prepared by the school cafeteria, or children can bring a sack lunch. A menu of the planned meals is posted and good food handling practices were observed.
The parents continue to take it in turn to provide snacks for the preschool classes. A list of recommended snack items is provided to parents, and a menu of items that is served is maintained.
A limited supply of snack items is maintained at the center to supplement as needed and good food storage practices were in place.

Administration:
In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, License Certificate, and Consultant Contact were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors.
Other required postings for handwashing, emergency evacuation, emergency numbers, daily schedule, and planned curriculum were also present. Child files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation.
Staff files were not reviewed due to office personnel being unavailable at the time of the visit though it is noted that records were reviewed in the prior full licensing visit and contained all required documentation.
inspection logs and certificates were current.
The program makes use of a shared community preschool handbook utilized by all preschool programs in the Fort Dodge community. That handbook has been previously reviewed.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None Cited

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant within 30 days of the receipt of this report identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 09/15/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.