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

Name of Center: Holy Cross St Michael Center **Enrollment:** 14 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46318

Street: 4105 HARRISON ST **City:** Sioux City Iowa **Zip** 51108 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Julie Berenstein **Phone Number:** 712-898-9837

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** julie.berenstein@bishopheelan.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-05-2024

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:** 11-07-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-29-2024

Comments :

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.) 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			16		16
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: Jana Drew **Date:** 12-10-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited the center on 12-05-23 and spoke with Julie Berenstein, director. The 3 year old preschool program at Holy Cross Elementary School started with the 2019 school year. Julie Berenstein has been the director since 2001 at the Children's school and has an Elementary Education degree and a masters in learning disabilities. Licensing capacity is 16. The 3 year old preschool program offers an extended preschool day for those families that need it. Their hours are 8:15am to to 3:15pm. If parents want to child to just do preschool their hours are 8:15am to 11:30am Monday thru Friday. The preschool program is operated by the Bishop Heelan Catholic school and for the 2024/2025 the program started 09-03-24. The preschool program operates in one room and only during the school year.

There are 14 children enrolled in the program. There were only 7 children were present at the time of the visit. Not all children attend everyday. For the 2024/2025 school year only 5 children attend the all day program as the other children leave at 11:30am when their parent arrives. On MWF there are 14 children who attend, and on T/TH only 8 children attend. All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, , 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, leading the children in exercise, reminding the children about rules, engaging the children in activities, and reading stories to the children. Staff had good interaction with the children. The center utilizes the Creative Curriculum in their teachings.

Center Nutrition Practices: Since the program is now all day, lunches is provided by the Holy Cross School along with snacks. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition. Morning snacks are provided by parents and the afternoon snacks are provided by the program.

Center Health & Safety
Center does not administer medication. First aid kit is complete. Monthly Fire/tornado drills were documented. Radon test is complete and within normal range. Annual heating inspection was not available at the time of the visit. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center uses the school playground. Playground has climbing equipment and slides. There was a climbing equipment that had a piece broken and had been fixed, however, is broke again. The school is aware of this. Staff will need to make sure children don't use that playground equipment until it is fixed. The school maintains the playground and was notified of the broken item. There is some shade on the playground. It recommended to add more shade. They use the school gym when they are unable to utilize the playground. Monthly playground inspections were documented. The playground equipment has poured rubber around it for surfacing.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips
The preschool program does not transport.

Goal of the preschool program is to continue in increasing in the number of children in their program. Also to update toys in the classroom. To continue in updating the outside playground and or to have their own playground.

Strengths of the program is staff work well as a team as well as commitment and longevity of the staff. Staff have good communication and relationship with the families they serve as well as the school and the community. The program offers, music, science and PE for the children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Preschool Center:

Sends weekly email to keep parents aware of what is going on in the program.

Display children's art work in the room.

Center has child size furniture.

Very positive interaction with the children.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Staff are animated when reading stories to the children.

Positive interaction with the children.

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

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Program needs to email consultant confirming that those items that fall below standards have been corrected by 01-15-25.

A full license is recommended at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center each 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.