Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St John Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 18187

Address: 416 Main Ave, Clinton, IA, 52732

County: Clinton

Director's Name: Cindy Sperry

On-Site Supervisor: none

Phone Number: 5632425588

E-Mail: csperry@stjohn-clinton-ia.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/25/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2027 to 02/01/2029

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/09/2026

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		9:00 AM to 12:45 PM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 12:45 PM	
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 12:45 PM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 12:45 PM	
Friday		9:00 AM to 12:45 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			24		24
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed at this center on 9/25/26. The center director and lead preschool teacher, Cindy Sperry, was present along with another staff on the day of the visit. The center director is highly qualified with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Iowa teaching license for kindergarten through sixth grade, over 20 years of experience with 12 years as director of this center. The center's main assistant has also been with the center for 20 years. This center is not for profit and is owned and operated by the St. John Lutheran Church. The center uses designated space in the St. John Lutheran Church including one classroom area, restroom areas, and some space in the church kitchen. There is also a large outdoor play area. This program does not participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center director states the center uses a play based curriculum that includes aspects of outdoor and indoor classrooms, social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy, math, and science based on individual interests and needs of the children. The center reports enrollment of 14 children at the time of the visit.

The classroom area is large and very well organized. It is clean and very well maintained. The room is bright with large windows, and is abundantly stocked with age appropriate and accessible materials and is decorated in a child-friendly manner, including displaying items made by the children. The room is arranged with centers to support the learning activities including; writing/art, manipulatives/games, computer, sensory table, books, and blocks. The preschool displays books nicely for the children, and books are further organized by topic for easy access by staff. The center also uses the church chapel for "chapel time" with the church pastor. The program room includes an adjacent restroom area with one sink and one toilet. Men's and women's restroom areas are used in the hallway area just outside of the preschool room as well. Required postings and child and staff files were reviewed. The licensing notebook including emergency drills, first aid supplies, playground checklist, radon testing, fuel burning appliances inspections, and policies were reviewed. All program space was observed. Staff and child interactions, food service, and hand washing practices and procedures were

observed. Health and safety practices were also reviewed including medication management, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting procedures, excluding ill children/staff, incident reports, and first aid kits.

Nutritional practices and food safety were observed. The children are required to bring their own lunch from home. The center provides milk for the lunch and reports monitoring the lunches and supplementing to meet CACFP requirements whenever necessary as required.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center director and her assistant continue to be enthusiastic and highly involved with the children in the presentation of a variety of activities. The children appeared engaged in and to be enjoying their preschool experience. The program continues to be highly organized, and materials abundant, are well maintained, and are accessible to the children. Books are displayed nicely for the children and are relevant to the present activity plan/topic/theme. The program room is bright and spacious, and hallway are decorated with the children's projects. The staff continue to work very well together. The posted weekly newsletter provides much detail about program activities. The center includes a large outdoor play area as an outdoor classroom setup. Staff and child files and other required licensing documentation continue to be highly organized. Once again, the attention to detail with the organization and operation of this center does not go unnoticed.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
1. _1_ staff file reviewed does not have the required annual training hours. The center director has submitted a plan to get the staff person in compliance by 10/19/26.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with (director) their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.
The center director provided the following responses:
1) Early on as we worked together I shared my expectations at the beginning of the year in staff development meetings. As things occurred that I hadn't covered or that I felt were being handled differently than I liked I would speak to her after school when the children were not there. My assistant now asks questions on an as needed basis if she is unsure or confused by how she thinks I would like her to handle things.
2) My assistant and I work well together and we both recognize when we're reaching an uncomfortable frustration level. We just ask each other to take over with whatever task needs to happen while we move to another part of the room or take a bathroom break. I also read and do research on ways to handle things or we sit and come up with a plan when there is a child with consistent behaviors that lead to our frustration.
3) I do not do a formal evaluation of these skills but rather observe on a daily basis how she and I are both doing. I will speak to her if I notice anything happening that is questionable. If it is not something I've seen before and it is not something I consider totally unacceptable then I would wait and see if it was a one-off or something that was consistently happening. If it continues to be a pattern of behavior then I talk to her about it.

The center will continue with a full license. Please address the violation so that correction(s) are obvious and ensure that item(s) remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 10/01/2026

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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**.