

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

Name of Center: St Matthew Preschool **Enrollment:** 90 **License ID No. (Reapplications):** 47708

Street: 2244 1st Ave NE **City:** Cedar Rapids **Iowa Zip:** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 2244 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Amy Ball **Phone Number:** 319-362-3021

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amy Ball **E-Mail:** kreinwart@stmatthewcr.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-29-2017

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** X **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: 02-10-2016

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>		
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			80		80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 12-01-2016 to 02-01-2019
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCAION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 09-01-2017

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

St. Matthew Preschool is a non-profit preschool program located inside St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School. This program offers a 3-year-old preschool program and a 4-year-old preschool program. The program operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:30am to 11:30am. Current enrollment is 90 children.

St. Matthew Preschool's director/on-site supervisor is Amy Ball. Ms. Ball has a BS degree in elementary education as well as over 20 years of experience working with children.

On 8/29/2017, all program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

St. Matthew Preschool has the following website for families and the community to access information about the program: <http://www.stmatthewcr.org/school>. The program completes regular newsletters that contain a variety of information including program reminders, curriculum updates, and community resource information.

Staff are professional - experienced and educated. Several staff have advanced teaching degrees and/or CDAs. The program continues to retain many staff.

St. Matthew Preschool operates under a 14-member board.

The classrooms are well-organized, spacious and sanitary. The preschool collaborates well with school custodial staff, school kitchen personnel, school administration, and school nurse (on-site 2 days a week). The entities work well together to help ensure program space is sanitary and hazard free.

St. Matthew Preschool offers family events throughout the year including an annual Christmas program, Halloween trick or treat event, fall open house, ice cream social, and spring graduation ceremony. Family/child/program conferences are part of the curriculum. Ms. Ball reported the program continues to look for ways to increase/improve family/preschool communication.

The preschool collaborates well with community partners including the area early access program and CART.

Staff were observed helping prevent the spread of illness by reminding children to hand wash at necessary times. Since the last monitoring visit, separate cubbies/storage areas for each child to store his/her personal items separate from every other child's personal items have been established.

The preschool has access to electronic materials to help enhance the curriculum. These materials include iPads and a SMART board. Since the last review, the program's phone system has been updated.

Enrollment continues to increase.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Staff engaged in programming with the children (particularly during center play experiences). Routine daily transitions were observed to go smoothly. Many words of encouragement and comfort could be heard throughout the visit. Staff utilized the teaching of PBIS when needed. The children responded well to staff and appeared comfortable at the program.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A plumbed hand washing sink continues to be highly recommended for classroom #108. This will help improve sanitation and daily routines that require hand washing.

The program's license remains in full status.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 319-892-6827; email alyons@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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