Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Immanuel Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 21453

Address: 4820 Oster PKWY, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Jackie Illian

On-Site Supervisor: Jackie Illian

Phone Number: 3192602005

E-Mail: jillian@immanuelcf.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/22/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/09/2025

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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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	38	0	38
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 09/22/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Immanuel Lutheran Preschool in Cedar Falls. I met with Jacqueline "Jackie" Illian, the director. Ms. Illian has a BA in elementary and early childhood education and an MA in educational leadership. She started with the program in August 2017 and became the director in August 2018. She was previously the lead teacher. Emma Andre is the lead teacher for the four-year-old preschool class and Gretchen Baker is her assistant. Anne Dawson is the lead teacher for the three-year old preschool class and Brittany Downing is her associate. The program employs eight staff members between the preschool and childcare program.

The preschool is in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. They were given permission to open in this location on 08/24/16. The program was previously under the Department of Education and became licensed under the Department of Human Services in 2012. Immanuel Lutheran Church has offered preschool to children for over forty years.

The program offers a four-year-old preschool class Monday through Friday from 8:15-11:15 am and a second class 12:15-3:15 pm. The program contracts with the Waterloo School System to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program. They also offer a three and four-year-old preschool program on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-11:00 am. The program offers before and after school care for the children who attend preschool. The extended hours are from 7:00-8:15 am and 11:15 am until 5:00 pm. There are 48 children enrolled. The children attend chapel each week.

The program operates out of two classrooms and a childcare room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children's families and with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in each preschool room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, listening, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, sensory table, dramatic play, writing, math, science, Play-Doh, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children. In the three year old preschool room you must secure the CD player's electrical cord to the wall or unplug it when it is not in use.

There is a sink in Ms. Illian's room and handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in her room also with one toilet and one sink. Procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms outside of the room. The boy's bathroom has one toilet, two urinals and two sinks. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

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The Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources are used to create lesson plans. GOLD assessments are completed on the four-year-old children. The four-year-old children are also assessed using the Brigance Development test at the beginning of the year and literacy screening at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. The program incorporates a Religion curriculum into the program. They use Enduring Faith for the religious teachings. The four-year-old room uses Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. The program follows the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS). Lesson plans were available for review. They have parent-teacher conferences each semester.

There was a phone with emergency numbers including the program's address and phone number in the four-year-old classroom and childcare room. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the four-year-old classroom. The evacuation diagram must be posted near both doors in the three-year-old classroom and the childcare room. A daily schedule was posted in each preschool room. You must post a daily schedule for the before and after school care program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in August 2024 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the sink in the four-year-old classroom in the three-year-old room near the desk. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/09/25.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables. In the four-year-old room the children were washing hands and then sat down on the rug. This negates the purpose of handwashing. The children must move directly to the table after washing their hands. After I informed Ms. Andre of this it was corrected.

The children who stay for childcare use mats to nap.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but they follow the guidelines. Parents are given a snack calendar and they are responsible for providing the morning snack. Parents are provided with a list of approved snacks. If the snack does not meet the guidelines the program is able to supplement. The snack is served in the classroom. Snack menus were posted and snacks are recorded as they are brought in for both preschool classrooms.

Children who stay for childcare bring a lunch from home. Their lunch is reviewed to make sure it meets CACFP standards and the program can supplement if necessary. The program provides the children with an afternoon snack. I reviewed menus and CACFP standards are being followed. Food items are stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

Dishes are washed in the kitchen. They are currently using the three step method but are going to purchase a new dishwasher. They use a refrigerator in the kitchen. You must add a thermometer.

The program has a newly constructed playground. They use woodchips for surface cushioning. They have three slides, a climbing wall and a sandbox with a cover. There is a grassy area.

The parent board is in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. I have emailed Ms. Illian an updated contact poster for myself that has the new HHS website.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

In the four year old preschool class the children were finishing up circle time where they drew pictures in journals and then reviewed letters. They then moved to snack. Staff members had great teamwork. Ms. Andre provided the children with clear and easy to understand directions. They were enthusiastic and encouraged the children to use their imaginations.

In the three year old preschool class the children were in free play. Ms. Dawson was working with children one on one to paint a rainbow that the entire class will contribute to. Ms. Downing, the assistant, was working one on one with children using stamp art. She talked with the children about colors. They also had terrific teamwork. Staff members offered the children choices. Staff members encouraged the children to try things and assisted when they needed help. They talked with children at their level and they were patient.

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In the childcare room, Jenny Ibendahl, was terrific. She was enthusiastic and she danced and sang with the children. She allowed them to choose the songs. They were singing to a video on the computer. She then read the children a book. She was expressive while reading and included the children in the story. She provided the children with praise and high fives. The children were excited.

The entrance is decorated with pictures of the children.

The children sing at a Sunday church service four times each year.

Ms. Illian has staff meetings on the first and third Tuesday every month. This allows staff members to share ideas and problem solves.

Ms. Illian states they provide the children with hand on activities.

Ms. Illian states they have a strong four year old academic program. The program contracts with the Waterloo School System to provide the voluntary four-year-old preschool program during the morning and afternoon hours. They also offer a three and four-year-old preschool program.

The four year old preschool class takes seven to ten field trips each year. The parents drive their own children.

The preschool incorporates a religious curriculum into the program.

Ms. Andre completes assessments on the children and has parent-teacher conferences twice each year.

They provide before and after childcare for students and this has made a big difference in their enrollment.

They provide the children with a lot of individualized attention. They work one on one with children and work with their parents. They work with the strengths of each child and foster independent thinking and focus on the child's own interests.

The program is using the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents, send pictures, attendance and billing for the program.

The program is in a secure building and there is a camera in the four year old classroom.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no licensing violations cited.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I met with Ms. Illian following my observations in the classrooms. We discussed the items that need to be improved that are noted in the body of my report.

Date: 09/25/2025

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.