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

Name of Center: Sacred Heart School **Enrollment:** 40 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 44486

Street: 210 E 3rd ST **City:** Monticello Iowa **Zip** 52310 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 234 N Sycamore, Monticello, IA, 52310

Director's Name: Trish Schmid **Phone Number:** 319-465-4605

On-Site Supervisor(s): Trish Schmid **E-Mail:** trish@shmonticello.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-25-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **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: 05-14-2021

Comments : Does Comply

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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			20	10	30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 05-03-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Sacred Heart School Aftercare is located inside the Sacred Heart Catholic School which is part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Sacred Heart Catholic School has been part of the community for over 90 years. The Sacred Heart School Childcare program offers a variety of childcare options to families and children enrolled in 3yr old preschool, PK4 and Kindergarten classes. Current enrollment is 40.

Sacred Heart School Aftercare combined director/on-site supervisor is Trish Schmid. Ms. Schmid has been the director since fall, 2017. Ms. Schmid an AA degree in early childhood education, well over 10 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 4/25/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Sacred Heart School Childcare is a well-established program located in a predominantly rural community. The program offers many different early learning opportunities to help meet the needs of families and children.

The philosophy of Sacred Heart School Childcare "...is the determining factor in the quality of experience that you and your child will receive. The core philosophy is to provide quality, loving care for all children..."

Sacred Heart School Childcare has the following website for families and the community to learn about the program: https://www.shmonticello.org/aftercare.

Sacred Heart School Childcare has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS.

Management of Sacred Heart School Childcare has remained consistent and professional - educated and experienced. In fall 2024, director Trish Schmid will be celebrating 7 years of being director of this program. Ms. Schmid is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Schmid is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations.

Sacred Heart School Childcare continues to retain many seasoned employees. Ms. Schmid has talked about how having a "great team" of employees has allowed the childcare's administrative office area to move into an upper level of the building.

Sacred Heart School Childcare has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. Sacred Heart School Childcare has successfully navigated historic Jones County flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

Sacred Heart School Childcare is located inside Sacred Heart Catholic School. During 2023, Sacred Heart Catholic School celebrated their 101th year anniversary. Congratulations! The childcare program functions under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Heart Catholic School Board consisting of elected parish members, school principal, and church pastor. Building and grounds are maintained. School administrators, school custodial staff, and school kitchen personnel help ensure the program is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. There is an AED on-site.

Sacred Heart School Childcare continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. Upon entering the classroom, a "welcome to preschool tree" with photographs celebrating enrolled families can be seen. The program also has an organized parent-staff/program information center, offers newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. In November 2023, the program was featured in the Monticello Express newspaper highlighting the program's annual "pancakes and PJs" event. The program also has an annual spring art show and end-of-the-school-year celebration.

The program's primary classroom continues to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. Sacred Heart School Childcare curriculum includes a combination of learning strategies as well as teacher-inspired ideas. Curriculum also incorporates a religious component, on-site guest speaker events, teacher-created learning through play ideas, off-site field trips experiences, open houses, parent/teacher conferences, and holiday/seasonal celebrations.

Sacred Heart School Childcare works well with community partners including local businesses, CCR&R, health professionals, local ECI, and the local school district. During 2021-2022 school year, the program obtained a new outdoor toddler climbing structure through the assistance of the ECI of Jones County.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Sacred Heart School Childcare has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders and closing checklist was observed to be posted.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Activities observed during circle time included book reading (e.g. The Super Hungry Dinosaur, The Napping House) with discussion. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts, sensory) that encourage innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, providing positive redirection when needed, and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please review rule 109.10(8) which states "...Children’s hand washing. The center shall ensure that staff assist children in personal hygiene sufficient to prevent or minimize the transmission of illness or disease. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed at the following times: a. Immediately before eating or participating in any food service activity. b. After using the rest room or being diapered. c. After handling animals." Ensure children with clean hands go directly to clean and sanitized food tables. When there is access to a plumbed water, hand sanitizer does not replace good hand washing with soap and water.

Any electrical outlets that are not "tamper-resistant electrical outlets", shall be covered with safety covers.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.