Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Joseph Sunrise Preschool

Provider No.: 22861

Address: 216 N Broadway, New Hampton, IA, 50659

County: Chickasaw

Director's Name: Kim Ovel

On-Site Supervisor: Kim Ovel

Phone Number: 6413942865

E-Mail: jrochford@stjoseph-nh.pvt.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 10/01/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/31/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	20	23	43
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/01/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. Joseph Sunrise Preschool and the Kid Zone before and after school-age program in New Hampton. I met with Kim Ovel, the director of the Kid Zone program. She was named an on-site supervisor in October 2016 and became a director in May 2022. Ms. Ovel is the lead teacher for the before and after school/summer care program. I also met with Emily Schueth, the lead three-year-old preschool teacher. Ms. Schueth has an MA in library studies. She started at St. Jospeh in 2016 and with the preschool in August 2024. Ms. Schueth has previous experience in a childcare setting. Michele Nehls is the school principal. The program employs six staff members.

Melody Kingsbury, Sara Sebastian, Taryn Smith work with the preschool children. Megan Jencks assists with Kid Zone.

The program is in St. Joseph's Catholic School in New Hampton. The program previously licensed their four and five-year-old preschool program, but that is now regulated by the Department of Education. The Department of Health and Human Services licenses the three-year-old preschool program, the preschool childcare program and the before and after school program. The three-year-old preschool program meets on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am. Extended childcare is provided to preschool children from 11:00 am until school is released and all day on Wednesdays.

The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00-8:00 am and 3:10-5:30 pm. There are currently 50 children enrolled between childcare and preschool. The program also offers childcare during the summer months.

The program operates out of two rooms. Windows provide natural lighting. The preschool room is decorated with the

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children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as numbers and the children's art projects. There is an area for circle time and the classroom has a smart board. The childcare room is decorated with the children's art projects.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, transportation, art, dramatic play, woodworking, Play-Doh, Ipads, 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.

The before and after school childcare program uses bathrooms that are in the hallway. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, two urinals and two sinks. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. The preschool class would benefit from having a sink in the room because of the amount of handwashing required.

The preschool room shares a bathroom with the four-year-old preschool class. There are three toilets and two sinks in the bathroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

I visited the childcare room and the preschool room. Rooms were within ratio. The preschool children remain in the preschool room for childcare until school gets out.

Cots are used to nap for the preschool children.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Ms. Schueth states she uses Heggerty Phonological Awareness, Second Step, Creative Curriculum, S.M.A.R.T. PreK Program Guide (Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training), TEL Ted which is an oral language tool kit, Peer Mediated Skills for social skills (it was created to support high-quality inclusion), journals, Fountas and Pinnell Classroom which is an Interactive Read-Aloud program, and Tucker Turtle. Lesson plans are not developed for the before and after school program. The children mostly engage in free play because they are in a structured learning environment all day. Lesson plans were available for review in the preschool room.

Ms. Schueth completes assessments on the children in the fall, winter and spring. She covers letters, counting. Colors, shapes, number identification, social-emotional skills, writing their names and name recognition. They have parent-teacher conferences twice each year.

The program uses Brightwheel to communicate with parents.

There was a phone in the preschool classroom and the childcare room and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the program door in the childcare room. The evacuation diagram was posted near the doors in the preschool room. A daily schedule was posted in both locations.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the childcare and preschool programs. I reviewed documentation of playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in November 2024 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The radon test must be completed again in five years.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted.

A carbon monoxide detector was on site in both rooms. In the Kid Zone room, it is on the east wall. In the preschool room it is on the west wall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/31/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but is required to follow the food program guidelines. The children are released from childcare to eat breakfast through the school at 7:45 am in the cafeteria. The school provides a snack for the preschool children during the morning and afternoon hours and an afternoon snack for the after-school children. The childcare children eat lunch through the school in the cafeteria. The children bring their own lunch on snow days, professional development days and during the summer. Breakfast is not provided during the summer

months. On the day of my visit the preschool children were only served one component because they did not have milk available. The teacher attempted to call someone to bring milk but no one responded. You must always serve to components for snacks. Snacks are eaten in the classrooms.

Menus were available for review in both rooms. There is a refrigerator in both rooms. A thermometer was present in the Kid Zone room. You must add a thermometer to the refrigerator in the preschool room. Disposable products are used for snacks, so dishwashing is not necessary. Any dishes that need washed are sent back to the kitchen. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in both rooms.

The program uses Oxivir Tb to sanitize the food tables in both rooms. I observed tables being cleaned and sanitized in the preschool room and proper procedures are followed.

All the children use the preschool playground. The area is fenced in. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning in one area and rubber tiles are used in another area. The climbing equipment has slides, a climbing wall, rings and other activities. There are playhouses and swings. Benches are available. There is a greenhouse in this area. There is a path for riding toys and the children enjoy taking chalk outside. Trees provide shade and there is a small shade shelter. The program is adding on to the playground currently.

The program also uses the playground in the park across the street.

The parent information is located outside the preschool classroom and inside the Kid Zone childcare room. 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.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members ae terrific with the children in both the Kid Zone childcare and the preschool rooms. Ms. Ovel has a lot of experience with the childcare program and she has built strong relationships with the children and families. She is teaching children how to knit and they are enjoying the experience. They make scarves and hats as gifts for their families. Ms. Ovel is kind and patient and creates a positive environment for care.

Ms. Schueth is dedicated and passionate about the preschool class. She utilizes several resources to teach the children and prepare them for the next level of education. She states she loves her job and the children are sponges who are learning so much and it is fun to watch.

The staff member was observed to be actively engaged with the children. The children were taken to the “Fun Room” to do an obstacle course. When they returned to the room they worked on counting to twenty. They then ate snacks and went outside to the program. She was patient and used positive redirection when necessary.

Ms. Schueth states the new curriculum (IRA-Interactive Read-Aloud and S.M.A.R.T.) is great because it works both sides of the brain. Ms. Schueth states it is a great curriculum and she enjoys doing new things.

Ms. Schueth states the children are engaged and excited. They are doing great with vocabulary and identifying their names.

Ms. Schueth states having two assistants in the preschool room allows more one on one time with the children. She states all the children are at different levels and she is figuring out how to work where they are.

Ms. Schueth states the three-year-old children join the four-year-old classroom on Mondays then then one other day of the week to interact with other children.

Ms. Schueth states she loves working with this age group.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with all parents.

Ms. Schueth states she completes assessments on all children and they have parent-teacher conferences twice each year.

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The preschool and before and after school childcare programs meets a need for parents. This allows children to receive care on site so that transportation is not necessary.

The program is in a secure building and there are cameras in the hallways.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no citations.

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 Schueth following my observations in the classrooms. We discussed the need to add a thermometer to the refrigerator in the preschool classroom. We also discussed only serving one component for snack. She states she knows two components need to be served and she did not know why there was no milk in the classroom.

Date: 10/27/2025

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**.