

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

**Name of Center:** St. Timothy Preschool and Child Care **Enrollment:** 82 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22896

**Street:** 1 Thelma ST **City:** Hudson Iowa **Zip:** 50643 **County:** Black Hawk

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 567, Hudson, IA, 50643

**Director's Name:** Clara Nehmer **Phone Number:** 319-988-3633

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Clara Nehmer **E-Mail:** preschool@sttimothyhudson.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 11-08-2022

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

**LICENSING VISITS**

**New Application** X **Re-Application** NA

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-03-2022

**FIRE INSPECTION** X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

**Date Inspected:** 12-29-2021

**Comments :** Compliance on 01/11/22

**LICENSE TYPE:** X **Child Care** **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:** X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age  
 Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

**SCHEDULE:** X Year-round 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          | 10                | 10      | 25                 | 30                 | 75       |
| Summer           |                   |         |                    |                    | 0        |

**QRS Rating:** 1

| <b>RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:</b> |                                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| X                                  | <b>FULL</b> license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024 |
|                                    | <b>PROVISIONAL</b> license from                   |
|                                    | <b>DENIAL</b> of initial application              |
|                                    | <b>SUSPENSION</b> of license                      |
|                                    | <b>REVOCATION</b> of license                      |

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 11-14-2022

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

N/A

## II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/08/22 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Timothy Lutheran Preschool and Child Care in Hudson. I met with Clara Nehmer, the director of the program. Ms. Nehmer has been with the program since September 2015, and she has a BA in an unrelated field. Katie Allison is the assistant director. She has a BA in an unrelated field. The program employs twenty staff members.

The program is in St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Hudson. Children can attend preschool three or five days each week. The preschool operates from 8:05-11:05 am. The preschool serves children ages three through five-years-old. Cindy Haas is the four- and five-year-old preschool teacher for the program. She started with the program in July 2019. Ms. Haas has a BA in early childhood education. Rachel VonWald is the lead teacher of the three-year-old preschool class. She has a BA in elementary education. Rachel Begg is the assistant preschool teacher and works with both classes.

The childcare program operates 7:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves children ages eighteen months old through twelve-years-old. The childcare program operates all year around and on days when there is no school. There are currently 82 children enrolled.

The program utilizes four rooms: a room for children 18 months old through two-years-old, a three-year-old room, a four and five-year-old room and a school age room. The program also utilizes the fellowship hall as a dining room and gross motor activities. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in one of the rooms and artificial lighting is used in the other rooms. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, Play-Doh and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

There is a bathroom with a toilet and sink in the entrance. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is a sink located in the room for children eighteen months through two-years-old. There is also a changing table in this room. Diaper changing procedures were posted but should be moved so they are near the table. Additionally, the changing table has a cloth safety strap. This should be removed as there is no way to disinfect it. The children also have access to bathrooms located across from the Fellowship Hall. The girl's and boy's bathrooms each have two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. The children in the room for eighteen months through two-years-old wash their hands in the room prior to going to the cafeteria to eat. I observed the children wash their hands and then touch the floor and play with other items in the room. This negates the handwashing. They should be washed and move directly to a table.

Staff members use a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review. The program is faith based and include Christian activities in their day. The pastor typically meets with the preschool children monthly for

chapel. Ms. Haas has created her own assessment tool for the children that measures phonological awareness and number concepts.

There is a phone in the rooms and emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted near the phones. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits. Post the diagram near the outdoor exit in the room for children eighteen months through two-years-old and near the exits in the fellowship hall. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Fire drills were not documented for April or December 2021 and tornado drills were not documented for May and August 2021. Make sure both fire and tornado drills are practiced each month and documented. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The program currently uses a grassy area and part of the parking lot on the west side of the church for the playground. The program has received grants to develop a playground behind the center. The concrete riding path has already been poured. The new playground will have an area for infants/toddlers and an area for children ages two through school aged. Turf will be used for surface cushioning in both area and there will be climbing equipment and swings in each area. There is an old corn crib that has been re-modeled for storage. The area will be fenced in.

A radon test was completed in February 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program previously had high radon results, so they installed a radon mitigation system in the fall of 2020. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and were installed on the ceilings when the church put in a new fire alarm system. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/29/21, with compliance on 01/11/22.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follow the food program guidelines. The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The program makes a new menu each month. Ms. Nehmer states they worked with a dietician so menus would meet CACFP guidelines. Parents have the option to bring their own lunch and snacks. Dana Smith is the food service manager/cook and Mary Schmit is the assistant. They have a great partnership in the kitchen and work well together. Mr. Smith and Ms. Schmit states they have been trying new foods with the children and trying to serve more baked goods. Food is dished out for the children.

The children eat all snacks and meals in the Fellowship Hall. There is an industrial freezer and refrigerator that is used by the program. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is an industrial dishwasher to clean and sanitize all dishes. There is one hand washing sink in the kitchen and procedures were posted.

The center uses Member's Mark Commercial Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing table. Cots are used to nap in each room.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board 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.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve children files. They were in great condition. I reviewed four staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They were flexible with the children's schedule to meet the needs and activity levels of the children. Staff members were patient and positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. They assisted the children with handwashing. Staff members interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. The children seemed to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

### **III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The program has made several changes of the recent years and they continue to grow. They added childcare and are now care for children 18 months and older. They operate all year around. They have a waiting list for each room except for school age children.

Ms. Nehmer states the program has a great group of staff members and they could not do this without them. All the staff members are dedicated to the program. Several of the teachers have degrees.

Several teachers participate in the WAGES program.

The program is a bus stop for children ages three and above.

The program has a secure building.

The program is a ministry of the church. Ms. Nehmer states she believes it is important that they include prayer in their classroom. The preschool children typically have chapel time with the pastor once a month.

Ms. Nehmer states the church community is supportive of the program. The church likes what the program is doing for the community. The school provides transportation, the community leaders have given grants and the city allows them to use the parks.

Ms. Nehmer states the program completes evaluations on each of the children that include not only an educational aspect, but also a social/emotional aspect.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance.

The program uses the Pro Care system but is moving to using Brightwheel.

Ms. Nehmer is a terrific director. She is dedicated to the program and works hard to provide a safe and educational environment.

Ms. Nehmer states that Ms. Allison has taken on more responsibilities and is an asset to the program. She takes care of paperwork, scheduling and children's files.

The program provides vision screenings through Lion's Club and hearing screenings through AEA.

Ms. Nehmer states they are going to apply for IQ4K level 1.

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

N/A

#### **V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

\*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.