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

Name of Center: St Joseph Sunrise Preschool **Enrollment:** 58 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22861

Street: 216 N Broadway **City:** New Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50659 **County:** Chickasaw

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

Director's Name: Kim Ovel **Phone Number:** 641-394-2865

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kim Ovel **E-Mail:** jrochford@stjoseph-nh.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 11-12-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-12-2022

Comments :

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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

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

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-18-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/12/24 I made an unannounced 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 met with Emily Schueth, the lead three-year-old preschool teacher. Ms. Schueth has a 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 two preschool staff members and four childcare staff members.

Melody Kingsburg is the assistant in the preschool room. Sara Sebastian provides extended childcare to the preschool children. Janet Gorman and Megan Jencks are the additional staff members for the Kid Zone program.

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.

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 58 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 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 were 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.

The preschool room share 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.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Ms. Schueth states she used Heggerty Phonological Awareness, Second Step, Creative Curriculum, Preschool Vibe 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.

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 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. They are conducting a new radon test this month.

The fuel burning inspection could not be located during my visit. You must conduct an annual fuel burning inspection and have documentation available.

A carbon monoxide detector was on site in both rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/12/22.

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

Snacks are eaten in the classrooms. The children eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. Menus were available for review in both rooms. There is a refrigerator in both rooms and thermometers were present. Disposable products are used for snacks, so dishwashing is not necessary. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines in both rooms.

The program uses bleach and water 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 on 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 uses the playground in the park across the street also.

The parent information is located inside 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.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Parents must provide one emergency contact with a phone number other than themselves. Four files only listed a parent as their emergency contact. There were three missing physicals in the preschool room and one outdated one for the childcare room.

The program uses Brightwheel for children's files.

I reviewed three 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. The professional development plan needs to be more specific to the HHS licensing rule. All new employees must complete first aid, CPR, universal precautions, mandatory reporter and Essentials training within 90 days of hire. The first year staff members must complete ten hours of training (which is covered by Essentials for new workers). Each year

thereafter the director and on-site supervisor must have eight hours of ongoing training and other staff members must have six hours of ongoing training hours. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were great with the children in both the Kid Zone childcare and the preschool rooms. Ms. Ovel has worked in the Kid Zone program for many years and the children respond well to her. She is patient and kind. She has worked hard to learn the licensing standards. She makes sure the children stay active and are having fun. In the preschool room staff members were patient and nurturing with a new child who was upset. Ms. Schueth got down to the child's level to comfort him. Ms. Schueth and Ms. Kingsburg have a great working relationship. They talked with the children about manners. Ms. Schueth used a puppet to talk with the children about feelings. Staff members provided the children with praise and positive redirection was used when necessary. They made sure to take the children outside to play. The children appeared to have a good time.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Schueth is developing a great curriculum to use for three-year-old preschool class. She states she is working on social-emotional skills and problem solving with the use of a timer and puppets. Ms. Schueth states she is excited about the children's progress.

Ms. Ovel has been a consistent presence in an ever changing program. She is committed and great at what she does.

The preschool children have conferences in the spring. The preschool classroom has a smart board that makes learning interactive and fun for the children.

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 was originally licensed only as a preschool but has expanded to provide childcare and a summer program.

The program is in a secured building.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children in the childcare and preschool rooms.

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

109.9(2)a: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance: 4
Information lacking: Parents must provide one emergency contact with a phone number other than themselves. Four files only listed a parent as their emergency contact.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 4
There were three missing physicals in the preschool room and one outdated one for the childcare room.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
The fuel burning inspection could not be located during my visit. You must conduct an annual fuel burning inspection and have documentation available.

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.