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

Name of Center: St Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 35 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 3453

Street: 1500 N 16th St **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51501 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 1500 N 16th St, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

Director's Name: Rebecca Heinicke **Phone Number:** 712-322-3294

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heidi Bernhards **E-Mail:** Director.stpauls@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-30-2023

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: 08-27-2021

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	35	52	30	125
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 09-05-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center on 8-30-2023. The center is a large one story brick building located in a business/residential area. Rebecca Heinicke is the director, she came to the center in March 2022. Heidi Bernhards continues to be the on-site supervisor. Preschool and child care services are offered to infants to preschool age from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. The mission is "St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center is committed to excellence by providing a Christ-centered learning environment for children and families". There are 35 children enrolled in the center.
I met Rebecca and Heidi during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
There are five program rooms, all rooms looked great and were in ratio. Each room has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There is also a large commons area/chapel area that is used for many activities. The children were having fun participating in a variety of activities. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
The infant daily sheets looked good. The center uses the Brightwheel child care app.
The lead teacher in each program room prepares the weekly themed lesson/activity plans. Make sure lesson plans have detailed information that shows what the children are doing all day, one room needed more detailed lesson plans/activities. Creative Curriculum, early learning standards, Handwriting Without Tears Curriculums and First Steps In Music are used.
The center has excellent resources and equipment for staff to use.
Some program rooms have been moved, including the infant room. You will need to contact the fire marshal to make sure the rooms are approved for the specific ages. The infant and toddler rooms are using a portable sink, Portable sinks aren't recommended due to not being able to follow manufacturer instructions, bacteria with the water tanks, etc. Please talk with your child care nurse consultant. Please see if other alternative would be possible - getting a regular plumbed sink.
*** This information was noted in my licensing evaluation in July 2022. The center has portable sinks in two rooms, these aren't recommended due to health hazards with bacteria in the tanks, not following manufacturer instructions regarding proper cleaning and water usage for washing hands. The tanks are very heavy for staff and staff are not aware of manufacturer instructions for cleaning and proper usage. I am recommending that you look at other alternatives for hand washing i.e. have plumbed sinks installed in the rooms, take the children to the bathroom for hand washing.
The diaper changing procedure needs to be posted at all diaper changing stations - needed in toddler room and the bathroom.

Please make sure plastic bags aren't accessible to the children, plastic bags are a safety hazard - toddler room had plastic bags accessible to the children. The four year old room has candy, please follow the CACFP food guidelines.

Nutrition:
The children bring their own lunch each day, the lunches are refrigerated. The center provides the daily snack - make sure the snacks follow the CACFP food guidelines (Even if you aren't on the federal food program you still need to comply with the CACFP food guidelines).

Health and safety:

Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. The center follows medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication. Radon testing was done in two rooms in July 2022, the scores were under 4.0 pCi/L. Radon testing is recommended in all program rooms. The center has all electric appliances. The center uses Oxivir Tb for disinfecting. Members Mark Sanitizer was being used for sanitizing , the child care nurse consultant notified me and said the Members Mark Sanitizer is no longer an approved product for sanitizing in child care. You can also use Oxivir Tb for sanitizing, you can contact your child care nurse consultant to discuss other products that are approved for sanitizing.
Please use the three step bottle procedure for sanitizing and disinfecting. 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Rooms with diaper changing should have two sets of bottles, one set for sanitizing and one set for disinfecting.
The annual fuel burning inspection was completed in August 2023.

Playground:
There is large playground area that is fenced. They have two playground structures and have rubber mulch surfacing.
Monthly playground inspections are completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. Some field trips are taken and a bus is hired.

Administrative records:
Children's files were read and were in good order, one file needed a current physical. Files need to be updated annually and more often if changes occur.
Staff files were in good order.
Monthly staff meetings are held.
The center will apply for the new IQ4K program level 1.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Your center is a wonderful resource for the community.
The program rooms look great. Staff had excellent interactions with the children, they are positive and attentive to the needs of the children.
Rebecca and Heidi were very helpful during my visit. The board is very supportive.

The center has moved some rooms around. They are working on creating more storage areas.
A new gating system for the infant room.
The center has a new music curriculum called First Steps in Music.
The center has received grants.
The center will apply for the new IQ4K program level 1.

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

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: Please post diaper changing procedures at all diaper changing stations.
Portable sinks aren't recommended due to not being able to follow manufacturer instructions, bacteria with the water tanks, etc. Please talk with your child care nurse consultant. Please see if other alternative would be possible - getting a regular plumbed sink.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 9-1-2022 to 9-1-2024.
Off year licensing visit 9-5-2023.

Please send me an email and let me know if the fire marshal approved the room changes for infant room etc.
Also let me know if you have a plan for removing the portable sinks.

*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.