Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mothers Day Out Preschool

Provider No.: 25151

Address: 1601 S Main St, Fairfield, IA, 52556

County: Jefferson

Director's Name: Jen McClain

On-Site Supervisor: Vicki Eastburn

Phone Number: 6414696634

E-Mail: mdo6634@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/08/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/15/2025

Comments: due every 3 years conducted by State Fire Inspector Damien Dawson, inspected in August complied in October

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			31		31
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Mother's Day Out Preschool is located in a church in neighborhood containing residential and commercial areas. This program is celebrating 26 years of service. The church is located on a busy thoroughfare in Fairfield Iowa. The program consists of one preschool room. This room is devoted to preschool not shared with the church. On 12/8/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Mother's Day Out Preschool and met Director Jennifer McClain. Ms. McClain had been a co-director of the program for 7 years and became the sole Director in 2022. She has been teaching at the program since 2012. Director McClain has an AA in Applied Science and Early Childhood Education. The Director is present daily. Three and four year old children are served at this program. All program areas were observed at the time of the visit.

Locks are on the doors and doors have a push bar that opens from the inside even if the doors are locked for easy and fast exit in case of an emergency. The rooms also contain egress windows. An additional room was added to the program in 2017. It is located on the other side of large gross motor room. Capacity for this room is 7 children but has not been used the past few years. I observed and inspected both rooms. No safety hazards were observed.

The preschool room is licensed for 26 children, however the preschool administration feel this number is too many to comfortably manage in this space. The children do not access the front of the church building and are not near the busy street. The building sits off of the road several hundred feet.

Program Observations:

The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The classrooms are clean, bright, attractive and equipped with satisfactory child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children. The classroom has a phone but is not fully self-contained. Children use restrooms in the hallway and the classroom lacks direct exit to the outdoors.

The curriculum is developed by the teachers and is theme based with a Christian emphasis. Activities in the program are approximately 80% teacher directed and 20% child selected. The four-year-old program is based on A Beka Book, a Christian based kindergarten readiness program. Both classes utilize interest centers including blocks (primarily Legos), children's literature, dramatic play, toys and games, puzzles and small manipulatives, art, puppet theater, and music and movement. The room also contains a child height sink in the classroom for hand washing. Attached to the room is a storage closet. This room also contains a microwave and two hand washing sinks (one child sized and one adult sized).

The program also has access to a large open area for large motor activities. I observed no safety hazards in this room. All

electrical outlets were covered. Many balls and other toys were available to the children.

Preschool Nutrition Practices Observed:

Parents provide snacks for the children on a rotating basis. Snack records are now being kept indicating minimum nutritional requirements are met or what has been served. Each family has a turn to provide snacks throughout the year. Parents are to include at least 2 of the basic food groups when providing the snacks. Extra acceptable snacks are kept on hand at school in case families forget or in case a child has an allergy to certain foods and may need an alternative. Menu items are now specific.

Staff interact with children during mealtimes, and practice good table manners. Staff eat with the children which is served family style. Teachers serve the food to the children. The older preschoolers are allowed to pour their own drink from a pint-sized pitcher.

Allergies are posted on cabinets when identified. Children requiring allergy action plans have these in the files and posted.

The preschool room contains a full-size refrigerator and a microwave in the class to help with snack preparations if needed. The kitchen area is inaccessible to the children. A church stove/oven is located in the church kitchen which is a room away from the preschool room. I inspected the refrigerator in both rooms. A thermometer should be easily found in all cooling and freezing units so that temperatures can be monitored daily. Freezing temperatures should be zero degrees or below and cooling temperatures should be 40 degrees or below.

Clorox Anywhere is utilized on tables before and after class, and before snack time, also anytime during the day when sanitation is needed (sick child, sneezing, coughing, play dough). Staff reported that they mix bleach when necessary for a disinfectant. The bleach and water mixture is kept above the sink area out of the reach of the children.

Preschool Health and Safety:

Preschool staff and I discussed administration of prescription and non-prescription medication on a case by case basis in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. If medication is onsite it is stored inaccessible to the children and should have a physician/pharmacy label intact. Medication documentation should be in the child's file. All prescribed medication needs to have a pharmacy or physician label and medication sheet. If medication is over the counter it should be labeled with the child's first and last name. Emergency medication is stored in a safe place out of reach of children, A “fanny” hip pack or small cooler is best for outdoor play or field trips. I provided the program a worksheet on emergency medication on 9/21/20. The preschool has access to a Child Care Nurse Consultant in the town of Fairfield that will assist with medication documentation, allergy plans, etc... The program has one medication this year and one allergy. An allergy action plan signed by a physician was present.

Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman with Iowa Department of Public Health provided consultation on epi pens in past years. Epi pens should follow the child through the building, going outdoors or on field trips.

The labeled First Aid Kit was in a drawer by the sink. A small child sized sofa and rocking chair are designated as the ill/injured area. The preschool has the current First Aid Kit checklist. The most current list has been printed off. All items on the list should be procured. CCR&R met with the preschool in past years and covered first aid and minor incidents and injuries. Incident and Injury reports have been filled out for the past year.

We reviewed environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment. The building was constructed in 2000 (preschool room) and (1980s) 4/5-year-old room. A lead-based paint visual assessment is not required since the building was constructed after 1960. The plug-in carbon monoxide detector is non-battery operated and UL approved unit. It has an expiration date of 4/2025. It should have been replaced this year. Updated radon testing is due every two years. Radon mitigation and testing will be an ongoing issue that should be closely monitored by Preschool Administration. The boiler inspection expires each February. This is due annually. The church is on city water therefore water analysis is not required. The church was constructed after 1960 therefor a lead-based paint visual assessment is not required.

A water/sensory table was added to the room this past year.

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Thermostats are located high enough on the wall that they are inaccessible to children in both rooms. The main room contains ceiling fans, and radiant heat in the floor. All electrical outlets are child safe. Three large windows are in both rooms providing an ample amount of natural light. Overhead florescent lighting is also present. Ventilation was adequate. A thermostat is present in each room and air is forced through ceiling vents.

We reviewed general safety regulations and compliance in the preschool. The program does use volunteers. and has substitutes. Criminal background checks need to be done on each volunteer and sub. Volunteers should always be under the direct observation of staff. All volunteers and substitutes shall sign a statement indicating whether or not they have one of the following:
a. (1) Conviction of any law in any state or any record of founded child abuse or dependent adult abuse in any state.
(2) A communicable disease or other health concern that could pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of the children.
b. (1) Complete form 595-136 DHS Criminal History Record Check, Form B
(2) Complete Form 470-0643, Request for Child Abuse Information.
(3) Sign a statement indicating the volunteer or substitute has been informed of the volunteer's or substitute's responsibilities as a
mandatory reporter.
Any visitors to the Center shall complete the tasks above. This was noted last year in the report.

The center has no pets or plants.

The preschool has no staff under 18 years of age.

Emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado were reviewed, I observed documentation of such. Drills should be conducted monthly.

Sanitation policies and procedures of the preschool were reviewed. The preschool is utilizing Clorox Anywhere (dwell time of 2 minutes). This product has been reviewed by IDPH. Soapy water should be used prior to the product if necessary to remove debris. This is an improvement from years past when the program was using bleach, which is an asthma-gen. All food waste containers were covered.

CCNC Laduerman conducted handwashing training with the staff and children. The preschool follows regulations regarding staff and child hand washing. Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands:
(a) Upon arrival at the center.
(b) Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.
(c) After diapering a child.
(d) Before leaving the rest room either with a child or by themselves.
(e) Before and after administering non emergency first aid if gloves are not worn.
(f) After handling animals or cleaning cages.

Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. 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:
(a) Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.
(b) After using the restroom

Preschool Playground:

An outdoor play area is located on church grounds adjacent to the preschool. It is fenced and naturally shaded. It features a single, large, anchored, wooden climbing and activity toy with wood chip surfacing. Wood has been treated with non-toxic solution used by the public schools. Wood chips are clean and of adequate depth.

I observed the outdoor play area. A moderate sized, childcare approved play structure for childcare is present. Per the directions only 8 children at a time should play on the structure and it is anchored. The preschool is aware of capacity rules. A log cabin has also been removed from the area so that lack of supervision is not an issue, and all areas of the playground are observable at all times. Equipment is in good repair. In the past the fence has had the bolts cut, capped or turned

around. This is an improvement. No more than two thread bolts should be exposed. The fence bottom has been secured, as it had worked itself loose in several places. Gaps in the gate are no longer present presenting possible entrapment hazards. Spacing gaps between 3.5 and 9 inches in fencing, gated areas etc. may pose as an entrapment hazard and should be monitored in the future as the ground settles. Wood chips were added and appear to be of adequate depth. Playground space is not an issue at this site. The space can accommodate 75 children. New playground climbing equipment was purchased three years ago. The enclosed area under the climbing equipment should be closely monitored when more than 1 child is present. Wood mulch can be raked closer to the equipment to ensure the adequate depth is covering fall zones.

CCNC Lauderman conducted a physical outdoor training last year.

Monthly playground inspections are in the alcove leading outdoors to the play area. The labeled First Aid kit that is taken outdoors is also located in this area. Emergency contacts should also be available in case of an emergency.

Preschool Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The preschool does not own a vehicle and provides no transportation. Not many field trips are taken since the programming day is a few hours. Trips taken have been to the pumpkin patch and OB Nelson Park (the last day of class). On trips children are taken to the destination by parents. The children are walked back to preschool by staff and assisted by police. The city police have assisted in this matter by closing the road temporarily so children could safely cross. Staff reported that first aid kits are taken on the trip as well as the children's files. Two trips are taken per year. First Aid Kits and emergency contacts should be taken on each trip. Ratio for field trips should be followed.

Preschool Administrative Records:

Child misbehavior is addressed by redirection, having the child sit with the teacher for a short period of time, or time out periods of age-appropriate length. The Curriculum is “thematic” and the emphasis of the week is listed on the monthly calendar that goes home with each child.

The preschool employs approximately six staff counting subs year to year. Staff and child records are mostly complete and well organized and are reviewed annually. Child records are inspected including immunizations, physicals and updated emergency contacts and dental and medical information. New information is submitted yearly. Pick up authorization forms were present.

Staff files were reviewed including First Aid and CPR (2 years), Mandatory Reporting training (3 years) and Professional Development hours (annual) and Universal Precautions (due upon hire). Fingerprints as well as Iowa Criminal background checks are present on all employees. Physicals on all employees are due every 3 years. The center should work with CCR&R consultant to get up to date on any assistance they may need with training or filing.

Mandatory postings were present in the center. No Smoking signs are posted on entry doors. Mandatory postings are framed and located in the hallway, along with license consultant information, and the center license. Any communicable diseases should be posted in the main entrance of the center.

Annual training on emergency plans should be conducted. The preschool conducts training in September each year and staff signed and date acknowledgement. Policy and the parent handbook were reviewed. An evacuation of immobile children policy has been added which is an improvement. It states, "Evacuating infants/toddlers, children with limited mobility, with special or chronic medical needs: Staff will carry or use wheelchair (available here at the church) for children with limited mobility. All children's medicines will be taken with the staff." Policies for earthquake, fire, blizzards, thunderstorms, fire, power failure, bomb, and an emergency plan for lost or abducted children are present in the emergency preparedness plan.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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The preschool sends a monthly newsletter to parents.

The preschool children decorate a float for Fairfield Kids Parade Day.

The preschool routines are orderly and focused on education and learning.

The preschool does a great job retaining staff.

Ratio is a strength at this program. The program routinely operates under ratio.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 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.

Substitutes have not had 6 hours of PD the past year.

2. The fuel burning appliances inspection is overdue.

3. Five child physicals are overdue.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The program may meet with CCR&R and IDPH to go over the licensing checklist at regular intervals. The program should meet with CCR&R and IDPH on a regular basis throughout the year, to ensure consistency and compliance. The Director has utilized these services which is obvious in the number of violations listed and the general quality of the program.

Grace Bogaards (Administrator) is a positive support for the program.

The preschool has regular collaboration with CCR&R (Malia Love) and IDPH CCNCs (Mandi Lauderman) to ask for assistance in maintaining licensing regulations throughout the year. The center director and IDPH have a good relationship.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this preschool remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultants can perform an Injury Prevention Checklist both outside and inside. This has been conducted in the past. CCNC Lauderman visits the program on a regular basis. She looked at the playground, immunization audit, handwashing training, universal precautions training last year. CCNC Lauderman observed the outdoor play area last year. This past year she conducted handwashing with both classes in September, and did a pre-compliance visit check with Jennifer before they started. She stated, "We have a routine of me visiting once a year and going over things and doing a walk through to check for any issues."

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, IQ4K , preschool concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org Malia Love is the facility consultant. She provided 3 on site visits and a few emails with the program the past year. When on site they went over staff and child paperwork as well as postings and the

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HHS Licensing Checklist. Consultant Love also met with program Director McClain on 11/12/25 and went over staff files.

Date: 12/11/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

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**.