Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: TLC Preschool

Provider No.: 25168

Address: 1002 E 13th St, Vinton, IA, 52349

County: Benton

Director's Name: Gail Gerber

On-Site Supervisor: Teresa Scheel

Phone Number: 3194725571

E-Mail: tlcpreschoolvinton@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/24/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/18/2024

Comments:

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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Friday		8:30 AM to 11:30 AM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			19		19
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 09/24/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to TLC Preschool in Vinton. I met with Gail Gerber, the director. Ms. Gerber has a BA in elementary education and an MA in elementary education. She has also taken early childhood education courses. Ms. Gerber has been the director since 2000. She has fifty years of experience in teaching. Teresa Scheel is the on-site supervisor and the lead teacher for the three year old preschool class. Ms. Scheel started in August 2006. Lyndsey Davis is the lead four year old preschool teacher. Ms. Davis started in August 2026. Jessica Kimm is the assistant in both preschool classes. She started in September 2023.

TLC Preschool is located inside Trinity Lutheran Church. The program operates under a board of directors. The program offers a three year old preschool class on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30 am. It also offers a four year old preschool class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30-11:30 am. There are 18 children enrolled.

The preschool operates out of one classroom. Windows provide natural lighting. The classroom is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors and shapes. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, 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.

There is a sink located in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted. There is a bathroom in the classroom

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with one toilet. The program also has use of two bathrooms down the hall from them. The girl's bathroom has two toilets and two sinks and the boy's bathroom has one toilet, one urinal, and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are additional bathrooms located in the church.

There is a phone in the classroom. You must post emergency numbers that include the center's address and phone number and the poison control number. This was also cited last two years and must be corrected immediately. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and diagrams were posted by the main program and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum and a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. They also incorporate Bible stories in lessons. The preschool offers a Christian environment. Constant repetition and review are used to teach material. Monthly newsletters are provided to the three-year-old parents. They provide parent and teacher conferences in November and March. At Thanksgiving time both classes prepare a feast. A lesson plan was available for review for the three year old class but not for the four year old class. The four year old preschool class must develop written lesson plans and have them available for review by parents and during my licensing visit.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

The radon test was completed in September 2024 and must be repeated in five years. Results were within EPA guidelines.

The annual fuel burning inspection could not be located. You must conduct an annual fuel burning inspection. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the hallway across from the parish offices. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/18/24.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The parents provide the snacks for the children and snacks are documented on a calendar. The program provides creditable snack options for the parents in their handbook. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. No dishwashing is required, as disposable products are used. There is a refrigerator on site and a thermometer was present. The temperature of the refrigerator was fifty degrees. It is required to be forty degrees or lower. Please keep an eye on this to bring it up to the required temperature. The children eat snack in their classroom.

The center uses Clorox Disinfecting Wipes to sanitize the food tables. The product is allowed for use on food contact tables. It has a ten second dwell time and requires a portable water rinse.

There is a fenced-in playground. There are two separate areas for fall surfacing and woodchips are used. New woodchips were recently placed on the playground. In one area there are two pieces of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. In the second area there are swings. There is a grassy area for children. There is a caterpillar tunnel, dramatic play equipment, sensory tables and a basketball hoop. Trees provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance of the church. 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. I emailed Ms. Gerber a copy of an updated contact poster for myself with the new HHS website information. Please post this on your parent board.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not provide adequate doctor or dental emergency contact information. Two files did not provide adequate emergency contact information for someone other than the parents. None of the files had documentation that the program had permission to seek emergency care. There were two missing physicals and one outdated physical. One file did not have permission to pick up information. There were three missing immunization certificates.

I reviewed two staff files. The staff members did not have Iowa background checks (SING) or fingerprints. It appears all the staff members need updated SING checks and fingerprints. Two staff members did not have mandatory reporter training. Neither staff member has had any documentation of on-going training hours for the last two years. Staff members must make up these training hours this year.

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I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. You must update your professional development plan to meet the current licensing standards. Your policy still distinguishes between full time and part time employees. All employees have the same requirements. I emailed Ms. Gerber the current professional development requirements.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This preschool provides a small intimate setting for children to learn. Staff members were observed to be enthusiastic during their interaction with the children. They moved around the classroom to interact with all the children and provide supervision. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. They were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members modeled good manners. They provided the children with praise and told the children they were proud of them. The gave the children clear and easy to understand directions.

Ms. Gerber states they have good communication with parents through paper daily sheets, emails and face to face.

Ms. Gerber states that when the program has been financially struggling, the church congregation has come through with financial support with donations.

Ms. Gerber states they receive positive feedback from parents and they feel fortunate to have the preschool.

Ms. Gerber states the staff members are good with the children and the children respond well to them.

The program has scholarships for families, but the board wants families to pay twenty dollars. Ms. Gerber states some of the families cannot afford this so she sponsors them and makes the payments.

The hallways are decorated with the children's art projects.

TLC staff hosts an orientation, family meet-and-greet before school.

The program is in a secure building.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(1)c: Written plan developed for staff orientation regarding center's policies and licensing regulations. Orientation is in accordance with center's staff orientation plan.
You must update your professional development plan to meet the current licensing standards. Your policy still distinguishes between full time and part time employees. All employees have the same requirements. I emailed Ms. Gerber the current professional development requirements.

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
Staff members did not have any documentation of on-going training hours in their files of in I-Power for the last two years. Staff members must make up these training hours this year.

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
The staff members did not have Iowa background checks (SING) or fingerprints. It appears all the staff members need updated SING checks and fingerprints.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current

certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Two staff members did not have mandatory reporter training.

109.9(2)a-c: 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 as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.
Two files did not provide adequate emergency contact information for someone other than the parents. One file did not have permission to pick up information.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. Two files did not provide adequate doctor or dental emergency contact information. None of the files had documentation that the program had permission to seek emergency care.

109.9(2)h: Signed and dated valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization, provided by the department must be on file for each child enrolled as required by Iowa Administrative Code 641—7.
There were three missing immunization certificates.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
There were two missing physicals and one outdated physical.

109.11(6): Telephone: Working phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting.List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone.
You must post emergency numbers that include the center's address and phone number and the poison control number. This was also cited last two years and must be corrected immediately.

109.11(8)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 annual fuel burning inspection could not be located. You must conduct an annual fuel burning inspection.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served.Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum.Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The four year old preschool class must develop written lesson plans and have them available for review by parents and during my licensing visit.

109.13(5)a: Sufficient refrigeration appropriate to perishable food is provided.
There is a refrigerator on site and a thermometer was present. The temperature of the refrigerator was fifty degrees. It is required to be forty degrees or lower. Please keep an eye on this to bring it up to the required temperature.

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. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I have reached out to CCR&R to work with Ms. Gerber to bring the program up to licensing standards. Ms. Gerber recently had shoulder surgery which made it difficult to keep up on administrative duties.

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Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Gerber her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Gerber states they have staff meetings and they discuss if there are difficult behaviors in the classroom. They talk about it as a group and they come up with solutions. Ms. Gerber states they will separate the child from the group if necessary. They never pull or get physical with children. Staff members know they can take a break if they need to.
|Ms. Gerber states to monitor the staff members will self-report.

Date: 09/29/2026

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**.