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

Name of Center: St Francis Of Assisi Preschool **Enrollment:** 74 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28415

Street: 7075 Ashworth Rd **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Wendy Henry **Phone Number:** 515-223-4577

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jessica Riemenschneider **E-Mail:** whenry@saintfrancisschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-04-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-05-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-05-2024

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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 X Other NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	10	71	0	81
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 09-04-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 9/4/24. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool is located in the Parish Education Center of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in West Des Moines. The preschool is owned by the church and a Board oversees the operation of the program. Children served are two (almost three) to five years in age. Wendy Henry is the director of the program. Wendy has a BA degree and also has past experience working in child care, which includes as a director at a few other programs in the past. The on-site supervisor is Jessica Riemenschneider. Jessica has a diploma in child care as well as past experience working in child care. The preschool uses a faith-based curriculum as well as some aspects of the High Scope Curriculum in their learning activities with children. The center is also incorporating the Creative Learning Gold Curriculum and STEM. Children are expected to be toilet trained for the most part before they can be enrolled at the preschool.

Children attend either AM or PM classes (8:30am - 11:15am or 12:15pm - 3:00pm) Monday through Thursday during the school year. There are no summer classes. Class times vary and there are several options parents can choose from. There are three classrooms total and two of these classrooms are used together as one. Two classes could be going on at the same time in different rooms. There are also two wrap-around classrooms when preschool is not in session. These classes meet year-round 7:00am - 5:30pm.

During the visit, children were observed engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in one of the classrooms. Some children were playing with blocks. Some children were observed doing art. In the other classroom, children were engaged in a large group/calendar activity being facilitated by staff. In the two wrap-around classrooms, children were again observed in free-choice play in both classrooms. Children gave sufficient answers as to where they relocate to for fire drills. Children were also observed washing their hands. Staff were engaged with children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is a secure entrance into the program.

The program has a website through the church. Email updates, newsletters, calendars, suggested learning opportunities for children to practice at home, announcements, etc. are sent weekly to parents. Pro-Care is also used to communicate with parents.

The program has a good working relationship with all church and school personnel.

The program continues to use Al's Pals and other puppets to promote good social skills for children.

Monthly staff meetings are held so communication again is stressed between staff. There is a mix of tenured and newer staff.

The center has good community partnerships.

There is at least one teacher associate present throughout class times. There are also support reserve teachers and interventionalists if needed for children.

The center adopts ALICE principles There is a review of safety that is regularly visited throughout the year.

Enrollment remains steady.

The director and the on-site supervisor both stated they have a good relationship with each other and work well together.

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

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 0
Number invalid: 1 child did not have a signed/dated immunization.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
There were a couple of dangling cords not sufficiently tucked behind other equipment or secure in one of the wrap around classrooms.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed in classrooms 8/21/23 - 8/23/23. Classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The boiler inspections were last completed in 5/2024 per the building maintenance person.

It was previously noted that the center does not transport and they do not go on field trips other than walking around the church/school campus. The center may at times bring in agencies for presentations to the children.

I - Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I - Power profiles created and be uploading training certificates if I - Power doesn't automatically upload them.

It is recommended that parents list at least one emergency contact person other than themselves for their children's enrollment paperwork and annual updates.

One staff will need to have paperwork sent in for evaluation as discussed at the visit. This paperwork was misplaced by the church and found today.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.