Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Zion Lutheran Preschool-Manning

Provider No.: 6217

Address: 1204 Center St, Manning, IA, 51455

County: Carroll

Director's Name: Amy Blackwell

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7126552352

E-Mail: zionmanningpreschool@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/08/2026

Licensing Period: 01/01/2025 to 01/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/16/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] 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		12:30 PM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
Friday			
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	0	0	24	0	24
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing visit was made to Zion Lutheran Preschool-Manning on 1/8/26. Zion Lutheran Preschool is located in a lower-level classroom of the Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, Iowa. There is one classroom. The church was built in 1963 and the preschool was established in 1985. The preschool is non-profit and overseen by a Board. Amy Blackwell continues to be the director. She began working at the center in July 2022. Amy has an associate's degree and participates in the TEACH and WAGE$ programs. She is working on her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Preschool is offered during the school year and serves children three to five years old. Morning and afternoon sessions are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. An afternoon session is held on Mondays and a morning session is offered on Thursdays. A total of twenty-eight children are enrolled. No classes are held on Fridays. I met with Amy during my licensing visit.

Observation of room:
The room looks great and has a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment including a smart board. The children's art was hanging on the walls. The children had free time and were having fun playing prior to getting ready for snack. Prior to eating snack, all the children washed their hands. The children had fun singing and dancing while they all took turns washing their hands. They all said Grace prior to eating snack. The room was in ratio. There were two staff and one volunteer present. Thirteen children were present. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. The center uses Creative Learning Curriculum Gold Series and they have lesson plans/activities. The center also uses a religious based curriculum. They modify the lesson plans to meet the needs of the children. They recently obtained a grant to get new curriculum. The center takes walking field trips within the community. They bring in agencies for presentations to the children. Staff maintain good communication with parents. The center uses the Remind App for communication with parents along with email. There are two parent teacher conferences held throughout the year. A monthly newsletter and weekly updates are provided to parents. The program has a Facebook page.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Nutrition:
The center provides a snack for each session. Make sure you comply with the CACFP food program guidelines even though you are not on the federal food program.

Health and Safety:
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented. Radon testing was completed in 2021 and was in the acceptable range. Amy completed radon testing in December 2025 with a device provided by the City of Manning and the reading was 1.2 pCi/L; however, there was no printout of the results. Amy is going to do it again with the ability to print out the results. The center has a radon mitigation system and testing is required at least every two years. A fuel burning inspection/boiler inspection was completed and expires on 11/30/26. A janitor cleans, sanitizes, and disinfects the preschool classroom and restrooms daily.

Playground:
The center has an outdoor play area and a hand-crafted playhouse. They have an exploratory playground. Monthly playground inspections were completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. Walking field trips are taken within the community.

Administrative records:
The center is IQ4K level 1. Children's files were read and were in excellent order. Two staff files were read. Melanie was one hour short on her annual training.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Amy is very enthusiastic and proud of the preschool. The program is a wonderful resource for the community. The church, preschool board, parents, and community are very supportive. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive, nurturing, and attentive to the needs of the children. The preschool works with the Family Resource Center as needed. The program participates in IQ4K. They are level 1 and are working on applying for level 2. The center receives grants for equipment. The center does some fundraising to provide for daily operations and supplies as well as snacks. Amy identified their strengths as being religion based, there is community involvement and donations, and the congregation is a support.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(2): Melanie is required to have six hours of annual training but only has five hours.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 1/1/25 to 1/1/27

Date: 01/20/2026

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.