

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

Name of Center: St Matthew Preschool **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47708

Street: 2244 1st Ave NE **City:** Cedar Rapids **Iowa Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 2244 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Amy Ball **Phone Number:** 319-362-3021

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amy Ball **E-Mail:** aball@stmatthewcr.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-21-2020

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 04-16-2018

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: **Profit** **Non-Profit** **NA**

Accreditation: **Accredited** **NAEYC** **NSACA** **Other** **NA**

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

Get-Well **Evening Care** **Special Needs**

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

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool
General			100
Summer			0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 02-01-2019 to 02-01-2021
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCACTION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

Date: 01-21-2020

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

St. Matthew Preschool is a non-profit program that has been in operation since 1984. The St. Matthew Preschool is located inside St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School. St. Matthew Preschool functions under the jurisdiction of the St. Matthew Board of Education which consists of several elected members of the parish and the pastor. This program offers a 3-year-old preschool program and a 4-year-old preschool program. The program operates school-year only Monday through Friday 8:15am to 11:30am. Current enrollment is 100 children.

St. Matthew Preschool's director/on-site supervisor is Amy Ball. Ms. Ball has a BS degree in elementary education as well as over 20 years of experience working with children.

On 1/21/2020, all program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

St. Matthew Preschool offers a variety of early learning preschool opportunities to help meet the needs of children and families in the community.

St. Matthew Preschool has the following website for families and the community to access information about the program: <http://www.stmatthewcr.org/preschool/>.

Preschool staff are professional - experienced, educated, and organized. Since the last review, a new assistant director Heather Waddell has been established. Several staff have advanced teaching degrees and/or CDAs. The program continues to retain many lead teachers and associates including director Ms. Ball. Staff throughout the program areas talked favorably about their employment at St. Matthew Preschool expressing happiness with attending children/families, supportive coworkers, and program hours. Ms. Ball discussed being proud of the program's seasoned team of employees, appreciating the expanding supports from the Cedar Rapids Community School District, and relishing increased training opportunities including PBIS.

St. Matthew's mission is to "...provide a Christian environment in which each child can grow spiritually, emotionally, physically, and intellectually through age-appropriate activities. We are committed, in collaboration with families, to enhance each child's character development and nurture the individual strengths and talents that allow each child to reach their potential..."

St. Matthew Preschool is located inside a building that also houses the St. Matthew Elementary School and St. Matthew Early Childhood Center (ECC). Overall, the building is located in a central area of a predominately urban community. All programs in the building are part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. St. Matthew Preschool has a solid relationship with school administration, St. Matthew ECC, school custodial staff, and school kitchen personnel in order to help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. St. Matthew Preschool operates under a school board. The program has an active PTO (parent teacher organization). The PTO holds regular meetings, sponsors fundraising events, holds

annual back to school events, and sponsors family activities.

The classrooms are well-organized, spacious, and sanitary. Areas to celebrate children (including "Jaguar of the Week") and their accomplishments (including artwork) are well established. Staff use a variety of verbal (including singing) and pictures cues to help children transition throughout the preschool day. The preschool has access to electronic materials to help enhance the curriculum. These materials include iPads and SMART boards. Since the last review, a unique indoor large gross motor experience (including jumping, walking the line, and crab crawling) has been established in the hallway outside classrooms #102 and #104.

Communication between St. Matthew Preschool and families continues to flourish through technological means as well as regular newsletters. Regular newsletters contain a variety of information including program reminders, curriculum updates, and community resource information. St. Matthew Preschool also has access to an advanced phone system.

St. Matthew Preschool offers many social family events throughout the year including an annual Christmas program, Halloween event, fall open house, regular all school/program book fairs, ice cream social, fundraisers, and spring graduation ceremony. Upcoming Events ("Sock Hop", hat day, school spirit day, and so on) include the celebration of Catholic School's Week. Curriculum continues to incorporate staff/family conferences, on-site guest speaker events, off-site field trips, letter/number recognition activities, play experiences, literacy activities (including 3-grade student/preschool reading buddy program), and teacher created ideas.

St. Matthew collaborates well with many community partners including the local nurse consultant, local businesses, and CCR&R.

Staff were observed helping prevent the spread of illness by reminding children to "catch coughs" in elbows and hand wash at necessary times. Separate cubbies/storage areas for each child to store his/her personal items separate from every other child's personal items are well established.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. The areas of study throughout the preschool included snow, ice, and hibernation. Throughout each classroom, children had access to an array of activities (including books, imaginative play options, crafts, sensory items, and building materials). Staff engaged well with the children (particularly during center play experiences and group circle games/discussion) and presented materials in an enthusiastic manner. A noteworthy new "snack center" opportunity is being successfully introduced into the 3-year-old preschool day. Staff encouraged each child to try different activities and share classroom materials. Staff utilized PBIS and positive redirection (clever use of Mr. Potato Head in room #108) when needed. Staff was overheard telling the children "nice use of helping hands" and "thanks for fixing that book it was a big problem and you solved it". The daily routine transitions (including program cleanup procedures and snack time routines) went smoothly. Many words of encouragement and meaningful discussion could be heard throughout the monitoring visit. Children responded well to staff and appeared comfortable at the program.

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

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.

- Documentation of updated radon testing (required every 2 years) was not found on-site. Please remedy.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure each child has an annually updated written Parental Emergency Consent Form (doctor name/address/telephone number, dentist name/address/telephone number, permission to treat, and so on) on file.

Please be mindful of ratio when accessing hallway child restroom areas.

Continue to ensure once children have hand washed prior to food service, they go directly to the cleaned and sanitized food tables.

Whenever staff is made aware of a possible allergy, a doctor's note (room #110; strawberries, chocolate milk) with possible action emergency plan is required.

A plumbed hand washing sink continues to be highly recommended for classroom #108. This will help improve sanitation and daily routines that require hand washing.

The child restroom floors (particularly in room #102, 104 and the hallway preschool restrooms) are showing much

ware/staining. At this point, it is difficult to determine if the floor tiles are simply worn from age or if the floor tiles are not getting properly clean/disinfected each day. If it's determined the restroom floor tiles are worn from age, please replace so that the program can be ensured that area is properly cleaned/disinfected as required each day. If it's determined the flooring tiles are not being cleaned and disinfected as required each day, please ensure this is remedied.

The program's license remain in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.