Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mount Vernon Community Preschool

Provider No.: 25093

Address: 304 1st ST W, Mount Vernon, IA, 52314

County: Linn

Director's Name: Ellen Mueller

On-Site Supervisor: Ellen Mueller

Phone Number: 3198956286

E-Mail: mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/03/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/11/2023

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 11:00 AM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 11:00 AM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 11:00 AM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 11:00 AM	
Friday		8:30 AM to 11:00 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			60		60
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Mount Vernon Community Preschool is a mission of the United Methodist Church and is located in the education wing of the United Methodist Church. Mount Vernon Community Preschool is not for profit, non-faith-based, operates under a board of directors, and has a parent advisory council. Mount Vernon Community Preschool commenced operations in 1965, and during 2025, is celebrating 60 years of providing preschool.

Director of the Mount Vernon Community Preschool is Ms. Mueller. Ms. Mueller has been in director role since May of 2020. Ms. Mueller has a BA degree in elementary education, has a plethora of experience working with children and continues to participate in annual professional development.

During the 2025-2026 school year, Mt. Vernon Preschool is operating Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am to 11:00am. On 11/3/2025, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in 2 adjoining classrooms with sufficient access to restrooms and hand washing facilities. Classrooms continue to be nicely arranged in a manner the encourages child learning. Areas of study were clearly visible and included the fall season. Curriculum on the day of this monitoring visit allowed for a variety of play experiences (e.g. craft stick collage, block building, imaginative play with dress up, puzzles) that were innovative, encouraged child choice, piqued child interest, and elicited positive responses and social interactions. During the monitoring visit, preschool circle time was observed to include musical finger plays and a clever game of "what's in the box and what does it do?". On 11/3/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in all activities which also included snack rituals and routine transitions. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be truly enjoying their day. It is also noteworthy that as the preschool session ended for the day, staff were observed warmly greeting families and wishing each child well.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Mount Vernon Community Preschool has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their program:
https://umcmv.com/children-and-youth/preschool/. The preschool also sponsors a private social media page for enrolled families.

Mount Vernon Community Preschool's management team (e.g. board, Ms. Mueller) is invested in the community, have been mentors to other programs and have helped connect families and children with various community resources and events. The management team continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. On 11/3/2025, Ms. Mueller discussed continued retention of all staff teachers and acknowledged having a really seasoned, reliable team of staff who are innovative, who enjoy working with children and who support each other and their preschool's enrolled children and families. It's noteworthy that all staff teachers have degrees in child development, education and/or special education as well as extensive experience working with children.

As of 11/3/2025, Mount Vernon Community Preschool was again found to be maintaining the required postings, maintaining parent-program information centers, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities (e.g. group trail mix experience, community trick-or-treat parade). Curriculum continues to be play based focusing on building social, emotional and cognitive development. Curriculum also incorporates teacher inspired ideas, large and small skilled muscle work, guest speakers (e.g. plant extension office) and walking field trips. Ms. Mueller discussed how since the last review the preschool has increased the use of technology for the purposes of administrative items and communication with families.

Mount Vernon Community Preschool continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff discussed how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures. Staff also talked about having continued supports from the United Methodist Church administration, pastor and the preschool board as to daily building and grounds conditions and maintenace.

Mount Vernon Community Preschool has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. This preschool has successfully navigated through local flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, air quality alerts (2023, 2025), and repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 11/21/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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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**.