Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Paul Lutheran Church Preschool

Provider No.: 21149

Address: 2136 Brady St, Davenport, IA, 52803

County: Scott

Director's Name: Karen Strusz

On-Site Supervisor: Kathy Jane Becker

Phone Number: 5633263547

E-Mail: karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/16/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/10/2024

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		8:45 AM to 11:45 AM	
Tuesday		8:45 AM to 11:45 AM	
Wednesday		8:45 AM to 11:45 AM	
Thursday		8:45 AM to 11:45 AM	
Friday		8:45 AM to 11:45 AM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		12	72		84
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this preschool on 9/16/26. The preschool director, Karen Strusz, was present along with many other staff. Karen is highly qualified having worked at the preschool for 20 years as a classroom teacher, assistant director, and now director since December of 2017. Karen has a BS in health administration and received the national director credential in February of 2013. This large preschool is non-profit and is owned and operated by the St. Paul Lutheran Church. The board is governed by a voluntary board of directors comprised of church members and/or parents. The preschool participates in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The preschool director states the preschool uses the Creative Curriculum. The preschool reports enrollment of 79 children at the time of the visit.

The preschool currently occupies two classroom areas on the main floor and three classroom areas on the second floor of the building (one being the "music" room, occupied by the various program rooms for a special activity on a schedule basis). A large hallway/room area is also used on the lower level for indoor large motor activities. Program rooms are spacious and furnished with materials that are well maintained. Program rooms on the main floor all have adjacent restroom areas including one toilet. Hand washing sinks are located outside of the toilet room within these program rooms. The program room used for the youngest children include a fold down wall diapering station located within the restroom area. There is a separate boys and girls restroom area located on the second floor hallway area. Children do have to travel for toilet and hand washing routines on this floor. Required postings and child and staff files were reviewed. The licensing notebook including emergency drills, first aid supplies, playground checklist, radon testing, fuel burning appliances inspections, and policies were reviewed. All program space was observed. Staff and child interactions, food service, and hand washing practices and procedures were observed. Health and safety practices were also reviewed including medication management, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting procedures, excluding ill children/staff, incident reports, and first aid kits.

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Nutritional practices and food safety were observed. Snack is served at the preschool. Parents provide this on a rotating basis for the class, including the beverage. The preschool does keep materials on hand to supplement if/when necessary. The preschool does not participate in the CACFP.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The preschool continues to be very well managed. The director and some of the staff have been with the program for many years. The staff continue to work quite well together. The staff were again observed to be highly involved with the children in activities and were positive and nurturing in all program rooms. There continues to be excellent support from the church for the preschool program, and the building itself and materials are very well maintained. Program rooms are bright with windows and colorfully painted and decorated in child friendly themes. The rooms are large and provide for ample space and plenty of accessible materials including books that are displayed nicely for the children. The children's projects are on display in many areas including photo displays. The program includes a "resources teacher", described as an extra staff person who can help out in the various rooms as needed. The preschool has purchased additional materials for their indoor and outdoor play areas. Staff and child files and other licensing information continue to be highly organized. The preschool continues to offer scholarships. The attention to detail that is required to provide a quality preschool experience for the children does not go unnoticed at this program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

N/A

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with (director) their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.
The center director provided the following responses:
1) We make expectations clear through trainings, modeling, and discussions at monthly staff meetings. Staff are reminded that behavior management issues can be negated through consistent, age-appropriate, and focused teaching . Children do their best when they know what the expectations are in the classroom. We also walk through examples of how to handle problematic behaviors in the classroom. We also work closely with families on behavior issues if needed.
2) We talk at our monthly staff meetings about how to handle hard days and hard kids. We talk about the fact that teachers as well as children, sometimes need a brain break. We encourage staff to use a calm voice, redirect as necessary, and to ask for help when needed. Our teachers know that they can ask us at any time for a break if they are feeling overwhelmed.
3) The director and assistant director are in every classroom doing weekly check-in to make sure everything is going well. We pride ourselves on having a good rapport with our teachers, students, and families. If there is an issue in a classroom, we meet as a team to discuss and brainstorm how to best solve the issue. We consistently provide feedback to our teachers and also ask that they do the same with us. We truly believe in working as a team to make St. Paul the best place to learn, work and grow.

The center will continue with a full license. Please correct the item cited and address the item noted above in this section of the report so that corrections are obvious and ensure that items remain in compliance. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 09/22/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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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**.