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

**Name of Center:** St Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool **Enrollment:** 96 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 43822

**Street:** 200 2nd St Sw **City:** Waukon Iowa **Zip** 52172 **County:** Allamakee

**Mailing Address:** 200 2nd St SW, Waukon, IA, 52172

**Director's Name:** Kieran Walsh **Phone Number:** 563-568-2415

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Katherine Fahey **E-Mail:** kwalsh@st-pats.pvt.k12.ia.us,kfahey@st-pats.pvt.k12.ia.us,

**Date(s) of Visit:** 09-11-2024

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 08-08-2024

**Comments :**

**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 Other X NA

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

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

| **HOURS:** | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 0 | 0 | 16 | 34 | 50 |
| 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:** Becky Frost **Date:** 09-19-2024

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 09/11/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool in Waukon. I met with Kieran Walsh, the director and lead teacher for the preschool. I also met with Katie Fahey, the on-site supervisor and the principal at St. Patrick's School. Ms. Walsh has been with the program since March 2021. She has an associate degree in an unrelated field. Ms. Walsh has completed the director class through Hawkeye Community College. Crystal Corwin and Michelle Byrnes are the associates in the preschool room. Ms. Byrnes started in August 2023 and works on Tuesday and Thursday and Ms. Corwin started in August 2022 and works on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There are eleven employees who work in the latchkey/summer program and three employees in the preschool program.

The preschool program is in the St. Patrick Catholic School lower building. The latchkey program is in the St. Patrick Catholic School upper building in the gym. The preschool program operates during the school year, Monday through Friday from 8:15 am until 3:15 pm. The preschool program serves three and four-year-old children. Parents have the option of sending their children Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. The morning latchkey program operates from 7:00-8:15 am and the after-school program operates from 3:15-5:30 pm. There are currently a total of 96 children enrolled between the latchkey and preschool program. There are 36 preschool children. The preschool children can also use the latchkey program.

The program operates a summer care program so they provide care all year around for children. During the summer they serve children who are four years old and older. The summer program operates out of the gym.

An inspection of both spaces was completed. The program was in ratio during the latchkey and preschool programs during my visit. Windows provide natural lighting in the preschool room. Artificial lighting is used in the gym. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist in the learning process, such as the alphabet, numbers, colors and shapes. There is an area for circle time. The preschool has a Promethean Smart board.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, woodworking, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children. Cots are used to nap in the preschool class.

There is one bathroom in the preschool classroom with one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The latchkey children use bathrooms outside of the gym. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and one sink. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, one urinal and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool classroom started using a new curriculum in the preschool class, "Making Reading Heavenly" to work on letters and they have started using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. A lesson plan was available for review in the preschool room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number posted in the preschool classroom. The emergency numbers for the latchkey room are posted on the parent board. The rooms use two-way radios to communicate. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the preschool room and the gym. A daily schedule was posted in the preschool room and on the parent board for the latchkey program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the preschool class and before and after school program. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in September 2023 in the preschool room and in the latchkey area. Radon testing is good for two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. There is a radon mitigation system in the preschool room that was installed in November 2012.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed in both buildings and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the preschool room on top of the cubbies and in the latchkey program on the east wall of the art room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/08/24.

The preschool is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Lunch is prepared by St. Patrick's School cafeteria staff and delivered to the preschool room. The school provides the lunch menu and it was posted in the room. Children are allowed to bring their lunches from home. The program must monitor the food brought from home and supplement them as necessary so they meet CACFP guidelines. The preschool program also offers an afternoon snack. The preschool had documentation of snack menus.

Parents donate snacks at the beginning of the school year and it is posted on a donation board in the school when more snacks are needed. Ms. Walsh makes the snack menu based off what is donated. The children are offered a morning snack that they refer to as a "breakfast" snack when they arrive for the program if they are hungry. The program did have a breakfast snack menu. The children eat lunch and snacks in the classroom. Dishes are sent back to the kitchen to be washed. Staff members are dishing out the food for the children.

During the morning latchkey program, the children can bring breakfast from home to eat. Once they are released, they can eat breakfast through the school. The latchkey program serves an afternoon snack and a snack menu was present. Disposable products are used.

During the summer program the children are served breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. They receive lunch from the school. The program receives breakfast and snack foods as a donation from the Dollar Fresh store in town and the school also provides these items. Menus were available for review.

There is a kitchenette in the preschool room. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is also a sink available in this area. The latchkey program uses a room off the gym that has a refrigerator and sink. A thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The preschool program uses Clorox disinfecting wipes to sanitize the food tables. They have a ten second dwell time. The latchkey program is using TruLiving Disinfecting Wipes. This product has a fifteen second dwell time. It does require a portable water rinse on food contact surfaces.

The preschool playground area is fenced in. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment that had slides and other activities. There are also swings, a picnic table and benches. The children are not allowed on the monkey bars or the fire poles because of their ages. Trees provide shade.

The school age playground is mostly fenced in. They used pea gravel for surface cushioning and there is also a large grassy area. There is a large piece of climbing equipment that had rings and monkey bars. There are also swings. There is a balance beam. Theare benches and a picnic table in the area. Trees provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the preschool classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The parent board for the latchkey program is located on a bulletin board outside of the gym. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twenty children files. One school-age file did not provide dental or doctor emergency contact information. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. There were eleven outdated school-age health statements. These must be updated every year.

I reviewed six staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were amazing with the children in the latchkey program and the preschool classroom. Staff members greeted the children and the parents as they arrived for the day. They were enthusiastic and were actively engaged in activities with the children. They moved around the space to provide supervision. Staff members engaged children in conversation and talked with them about how their night went and fun things they did with their parents. In the preschool room the staff members counted the children as they left the room and returned. They practiced a fire drill during my visit. In the preschool room the teachers had fun learning activities to keep the children engaged. The children appeared to enjoy their time in the program.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Ms. Walsh states both preschool classes are full and they have a waiting list.

Ms. Walsh states St. Patrick's is a great school. They have good staff members who care about the children.

Ms. Walsh states they are using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and they use the Making Reading Heavenly as part of their curriculum. The children really like it.

The program provides summer childcare and they plan for fun activities and take field trips. The parents appreciate the program.

Ms. Walsh states they provide a well-rounded preschool class for children and the children are good helpers in the classroom.

Ms. Walsh states they have a good administrative team. She states Ms. Fahey is supportive and involved in the programs and has been good to work with.

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

109.10(1)b: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions.
Number not in compliance: 11
There were eleven outdated school-age health statements. These must be updated every year.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.