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

Name of Center: Plymouth Nursery School **Enrollment:** 121 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28375

Street: 4126 Ingersoll Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50312 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312

Director's Name: Jan Van Wyk **Phone Number:** 515-255-3271

On-Site Supervisor(s): Emily Rademacher **E-Mail:** jvanwyk@plymouthchurch.com erademacher@plymouthchurch.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-12-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-22-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			100		100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2024 to 01-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-28-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced, full licensing visit was completed 12-12-23. Emily Rademacher, on-site supervisor was present for the entire visit.

Plymouth Nursery School has been in operation since 1954. This program is one of the longest running preschools in Iowa. The preschool is located within the Plymouth Congregational Church. There are five classrooms and the center also has an outdoor playground and use of the church's gym. Children ranging from three through five years of age are served in the preschool. There is a play group that serves two year old children. Jan VanWyk has served as director since 2005. Jan began her employment at Plymouth Nursery School in 2002 as a teacher. Jan has previous director experience. She has a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. Emily Rademacher assumed the role of on-site supervisor July, 2023. She has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Reading. She has prior experience with teaching pre-k through 2nd gr. Both meet the requirements.

Plymouth Nursery School has evolved over the years to best serve their family's needs. The program offers playtime for two year old children as well as a playtime plus class for children who are 2 1/2 years old. The program offers a three year old program, a prekindergarten program, a pre-k plus program and a pre-k extension program.

This preschool is a school year only program, operating from September through May.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room Observations/Activities: The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum by philosophy and uses the Iowa Learning Standards. The classrooms had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. The staff were in ratio and maintained structure in the rooms. The rooms were nicely organized and themes fit for the seasons. The center primarily uses email to communicate with parents.

Nutrition Practices: Parents provide snacks/lunches. The program provides Milk and water.

Health and Safety: Purrell and soapy water are used to clean and sanitize. Mediations are kept securely in the classroom and administered by staff. There were handwashing posters throughout the center. Staff and children were observed to utilized good handwashing technique.. There are first aid kits in all rooms. The OSS could not late documentation of radon testing and will secure this testing. The HVAC is maintained by the church. There are carbon monoxide detectors present. Fire/Tornado drills are to be completed monthly; documentation indicated that drills were missed in September 2023. All other months were documented having been completed.

Playground: Playground checks were documented to have been completed monthly. The playground is located in the center atrium-type area of the building. There are play structures and shade structures on the play equipment. There is

mulch safety servicing. The playground was observed to be in good condition.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Review: Information regarding Mandatory Reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and no-smoking signs were conspicuously posted as required. Ten child files were reviewed and contained all required information; Five employee files were reviewed with one in need of repeat National Checks (fingerprints) and one missing CPR/1st Aide certification (which the OSS indicated was completed but for which the certification had not yet been placed in the file and that she would provide this information in an email). This center has a well-establish policy in place.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Jan has served as director of this center for many years. The preschool benefits a great deal from her experience and expertise.

The classrooms are well equipped with age appropriate supplies and furnishings.

The preschool focuses on emotional, social, physical and educational development and is committed to learning through play.

The preschool is family based and family involved. The level of parent involvement is strong, as well as extended family support for the children who attend.

The preschool has long term, committed staff with longevity of years.

Many of the staff have a degree and all of the staff have some college credits.

The preschool is a long running program and has a solid reputation in the community; they are enrolling 4th generation children.

The preschool receives positive feedback from the schools that the children are ready for kindergarten.

The preschool receives positive feedback from parents on their annual survey.

The preschool has worked jointly with the church on security measures and taking steps to make the preschool more secure.

The preschool has a strong relationship with the church.

Enrollment is strong.

The parents are engaged and there is a sense of community within the program.

The program has a strong board of directors.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
>National criminal history checks (Fingerprints) are required to be repeated every four years. One staff was in need of an updated national criminal history check.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

Records indicated that drill completion for Sept 2023 were not completed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon testing was completed in November of 2022. All rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The program was consistently observed to have a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities/centers with staff that were engaged with the children and responsive in a nurturing manner while maintaining good structure in the room.

*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.