Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Mater Dei's Little Saints

Provider No.: 30119

Address: 1312 Morningside Ave, Sioux City, IA, 51106

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Melissa Tiedtke

On-Site Supervisor: Emily Torgesen

Phone Number: 7122761647

E-Mail: MDP.littlesaints@materdeisc.org

HHS Visit Date: 01/20/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/08/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Tuesday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Wednesday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Thursday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Friday	6:45 AM to 5:45 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		16	33	50	99
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit on January 20, 2025, and spoke with Melissa Tiedtke, the center director. Ms. Tiedtke has 20 years of experience working with children. The staff collectively bring many years of experience working with children, contributing to a well-rounded and knowledgeable team.

Lil's Saints is located across the street from Mater Dei Elementary School and operates in a two-story building with a fenced playground adjacent to the facility. The center includes two rooms, one on the upper level and one on the lower level, and operates Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. The program serves children ages two through school age. The center also utilizes the Mater Dei school building across the street from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. each day for school-age children, using the gym and art room. The program also uses the school building during the summer as needed. The front doors of the school are locked, and Mater Dei staff allow entry. During the summer, the program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The program follows Mater Dei's schedule for inclement weather.

All areas subject to licensing were reviewed.

There are 64 children enrolled in this program and 23 children were present during the time of my visit.

A daily schedule of activities was posted in the center. The classroom environment included visual displays of colors, shapes, the alphabet, and children's artwork. The center implements the Creative Curriculum to guide instruction and activities. The program is currently rated at Level 1 on the IQ4K quality rating scale. Additional visual supports, including pictures, colors, and words, were observed throughout the room.

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Staff utilize the Creative Curriculum, which is a research-based, comprehensive early childhood curriculum designed to support developmentally appropriate practices and individualized learning. It emphasizes exploration, hands-on activities, and fostering social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development through structured and play-based experiences. In addition, staff have received PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training. PBIS is a proactive approach that promotes positive behavior by teaching and reinforcing expectations, creating a supportive environment, and using consistent strategies to prevent challenging behaviors. This framework helps staff encourage social-emotional growth and maintain a safe, respectful learning environment.

During the visit, I observed strong staff engagement with the children in their care. Staff were actively involved in activities, providing guidance and encouragement as children participated in play and learning experiences. They interacted positively with the children, using supportive language and maintaining a warm, nurturing tone. Staff were observed sitting at the children's level, facilitating conversations, and asking open-ended questions to promote critical thinking and language development. They demonstrated attentiveness to individual needs, offering assistance when necessary and reinforcing positive behaviors. These interactions reflected an environment that fosters social-emotional growth, learning, and a sense of security for the children.

Food is prepared onsite in a kitchen that is not accessible to the children. Refrigerator is kept at the appropriate temperature. Breakfast cereal is stored in plastic containers. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition but is not currently on the food program. Menus were posted.

Medication is stored securely in a locked box or placed out of children's reach. The center follows proper guidelines for administering medication, ensuring safety and documentation. Tables are sanitized prior to meal times to maintain hygienic conditions. A first aid kit is available and adequately stocked to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills must be documented monthly to meet safety requirements. The most recent radon test exceeded acceptable standards and will need to be repeated. An annual heating system inspection has been completed. The center employs a cleaning service that visits nightly to ensure sanitary conditions are maintained. A functioning carbon monoxide detector is present in the facility.

The center's outdoor play area is spacious and includes designated zones for riding activities, basketball, and a climbing structure. The playground equipment features slides, climbing components, and a shade structure to provide protection from the sun. Turf surfacing surrounds the equipment, offering a safe play environment. Monthly playground inspections are documented as required. Adequate shade is available throughout the playground to ensure comfort and safety during outdoor activities. The center does not transport.

The center was observed to be clean and well-maintained, with appropriate sanitization practices in place to promote a healthy environment for children.

The goals continue to be earning IQ4K's level certification. They are currently at level 1.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

I observed staff who were actively engaged and focused on supporting children's learning. They demonstrated creativity in their teaching approaches, incorporating hands-on activities to build essential skills such as cutting and drawing. Staff provided individualized guidance, offering encouragement and modeling techniques to help children develop fine motor skills. Their interactions reflected intentional planning and a commitment to fostering both cognitive and physical development through age-appropriate, engaging activities.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Please address peeling area by the sink in the upstairs bathroom.

Make sure you date food when you are transferring to zip lock

Send Radon results when they are completed.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please email licensing consultant by 004/01/25 confirming aspects that fall below licensing standards have been corrected.

A full license will remain in effect at this time

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 01/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.