Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Tiny Treasures Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 28312

Address: 8301 Aurora AVE, Urbandale, IA, 50322

County: Polk

Director's Name: Heather Schmitz

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5157773902

E-Mail: heather.schmitz@gdlc.church

HHS Visit Date: 09/21/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/16/2026

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:00 AM to 2:30 PM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 2:30 PM	
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 2:30 PM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 2:30 PM	
Friday		9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	
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	0	8	58	0	66
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/21/26. The director was present throughout the inspection.

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

Tiny Treasures Lutheran Preschool is located in the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale, IA. The center serves children ages two and a half to five years in age during the school year. The center has four classrooms. Children attend Monday - Friday but times may vary based on their ages. Some children attend full-days, 9:00am - 2:30pm. The center utilizes a combination of the Creative Learning Curriculum as well as a Bible based curriculum. Total enrollment on the day of the inspection was 72 children.

The center is overseen by a Board. Heather Schmitz is the director. Heather has a Bachelor's degree and past experience working in child care.

NUTRITION: Parents are responsible for providing their children's lunches and/or snacks. Parents are given information on what foods meet CACFP requirements. The center will supplement if needed. The center has several refrigerators to keep food cold as needed. Food storage was sufficient. Children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not transport and they no longer go on field trips. The center will bring in different agencies for presentations to children throughout the school year.

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PLAYGROUND: The center has a brand new playground. The playground is entirely fenced in. The playground has several climbing structures and field turf is used throughout the playground for surfacing. The building provides some shade. Monthly playground inspections are being documented.

During the inspection, one classroom was using an alternative indoor space for large motor activities since their regular space was being used by the church at the time of the inspection and because it was too wet to play outside. Other children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in their classrooms. Dramatic play, art/writing, manipulatives, dress up, and blocks were specifically observed. Toys, tables, and other equipment are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more challenging child behaviors, the director stresses with her staff to work together as a team and include parents in on any behavioral plans. The director is also involved in these situations and will cover in classrooms for additional support when needed. Communication between staff, children, and parents is a focus that is regularly practiced.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There are phones in every classroom.

The center is involved with ITERS and ECERS. The center also participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Parents receive a weekly newsletter from the director as well as a classroom newsletter from specific teachers. Monthly calendars are sent home to parents. The center has a website through the church website www.gloriadeionline.com. Also, there is one parent teacher conference a year and one home visit a year for four and five year old children.

The center uses the online app, Brightwheel.

The center works well with other church personnel.

There are monthly staff meetings and Board meetings for the program. There is good staff retention.

There is a washer and dryer on site.

There is a secure entrance into the center during center hours of operation. There is also a camera security system in place.

There is a free eye exam given to kids once a year by a clinic. There are also free speech screenings provided to children if needed.

Staff pictures and bios are posted near the entrance.

Enrollment remains steady,

The director is organized.

A new playground has been constructed over the past year. New field turf has also been installed.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained

so as not to result in injury to the children.
There were some dangling cords that needed to be more securely attached to each other and/or the wall and/or tucked behind other equipment in the two year old classroom.

109.11(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
Radon testing is past due as it was due again in 8/2026. There is a plan in place to get radon testing completed before the year is over.

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

Radon testing should be conducted before the year is over.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing is now past due. Per last year's inspection:
Radon testing was last tested 8/27/21 - 8/30/21. Radon levels in the classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 5/28/26.

I-Power was again discussed at the visit. All staff have I-Power profiles and are uploading training.

It was noted that the new playground fence gate had several bolts longer than two threads showing. However, there is a work order in to replace this fence in the near future.

The center will need to replace their old IQ4K certificate with their new certificate.

It was noted that one child immunization reviewed needs to be transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form.

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Date: 09/22/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.