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

Name of Center: St John's Christian Day Care **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 23522

Street: 18927 HWY 38 **City:** Monticello Iowa **Zip** 52310 **County:** Jones

Mailing Address: 18927 HWY 38, Monticello, IA, 52310

Director's Name: Natalee Herrig **Phone Number:** 319-465-5369

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jessi Patterson **E-Mail:** sjcdaycare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-18-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 06-08-2020

Comments : At the time of the initial fire marshal inspection on 6/8/2023, some items were noted as needing attention. No negative action was taken as the program is working a plan of correction.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	12	6	22	10	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 06-14-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

St. John's Christian Day Care has been in operation for several years. The non-profit program is located inside St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's Christian Day Care operates year-round, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.. The program serves infants through school-age children. Current enrollment is 32.

Director Natalee Herrig has been with the program since December, 2019. Ms. Herrig has a BA degree in Unified Early Childhood Education, has over 6 years experience in childcare and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 5/18/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

St. John's Christian Day Care offers full-time childcare options to help meet the needs of children and their families in the community. St. John's Christian Day Care is well-established in a predominantly rural area and accepts a variety of funding sources.

St. John's Christian Day Care has historically sponsored a private social media page for enrolled families.

St. John's Christian Day Care has a history of participation in quality initiatives including QRS with a past QRS 2-Star. St. John's Christian Day Care is currently eligible to and does participate in CACFP. Ms. Herrig discussed a future goals related to quality.

Ownership and management of St. John's Christian Day Care has remained consistent. This includes director Ms. Herrig and on-site supervisor Ms. Patterson. During 2023, Ms. Herrig is celebrating her 4th year as director of this program. Congratulations! Management is organized, and in turn, the program operates smoothly. Management has systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures.

Since the last monitoring visit, the program has retained seasoned employees as well as hired a few new ones. Ms. Herrig reported staff appreciation and professional growth are part of their program's operations.

St. John's Christian Day Care has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. St. John's Christian Day Care has successfully navigated through Jones County historic local flooding events, 2019 Polar Vortex, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event and 2019 health (Covid-19) pandemic.

St. John's Christian Day Care is located inside the St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's Lutheran Church which was established in 1864 and is one of the oldest churches in Jones County. The education and fellowship hall were built next to the worship area in 1983. Building and grounds are well maintained. The childcare obtained a new chef in February 2023.

The chef discussed her prior food service experience as well as shared the joys related to cooking for young children. It was noted that the children were observed expressing much happiness with the day's breakfast of English muffins with jelly, bananas and milk. St. John's Christian Day Care operates under a board of directors. Church administrators, board of directors, and church custodial staff help ensure the property is safe and hazard free each day.

St. John's Christian Day Care continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Ms. Herrig discussed how recent fundraising efforts (butter braids) since the last license review allowed the program to obtain new child tables and chairs, new room/area rugs, an additional multi-infant stroller, and new toddler room couch and chair set. Ms. Herrig talked about future goals related to outdoor fence improvements and an outdoor pergola.

Classrooms are arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. artwork) are displayed throughout the program space. Curriculum incorporates play based learning, is theme based, and includes teacher-inspired ideas. Curriculum also historically includes on-site guest speaker events and enrichments. The current month's activities include "muffins with mom", garage sale, and Cinco de Mayo.

St. John's Christian Day Care works well with community partners including local businesses, CCR&R, health professionals, local ECI, and the local school district. In 2022, the program obtained a new outdoor toddler climbing structure through the assistance of ECI of Jones County. Ms. Herrig continues to apply for and receive grants. Past grant awards from local businesses (e.g. art easel from the Jones County Regional Fitness, monetary assistance grant from Theisen's) have helped the childcare to make improvements.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. This program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study throughout the center included spring weather and Mother's Day. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, building materials) that encouraged innovative play. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Activities observed were many (e.g. infant cares, group discussion with book reading, learning play experiences). Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and engaging children in much meaningful discussion. Staff were observed communicating with the children verbally and with sign language. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

109.9(1)d All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- Staff file reviewed (HH) lacked documentation of the second page of the required childcare physical examination.
- Staff file reviewed (OZ) had documentation of a physical exam but it was not noted on code required form 470-5152.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Post diapering procedures in any area diapering is conducted (e.g. infant room).

At the time of the initial fire marshal inspection on 6/8/2023, some items were noted as needing attention. No negative action was taken as the program began and is working a plan of correction. Please forward the updated fire marshal certificate once it's issued documenting the corrections.

Please review rule 109.10(14) which states "...Animals kept on site shall be in good health with no evidence of disease, be of such disposition as to not pose a safety threat to children, and be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner. Documentation of current vaccinations shall be available for all cats and dogs. No ferrets, reptiles, including turtles, or birds of the parrot family shall be kept on site. Pets shall not be allowed in kitchen or food preparation areas." A parsonage is located adjacent the church/childcare and the childcare's outdoor play space. There is a chicken coop with chickens located between the parsonage and the childcare's outdoor play space. On the day of the monitoring visit, licensing found the chickens to be free ranging outside the chicken coop and that some chickens had found their way into the childcare outdoor play space. The chickens were gathered and placed back into their chicken coop prior to childcare children using the

outdoor space. Licensing, the pastor and management discussed increased risks including diseases known to be carried by birds (e.g. E. coli O157:H7, Salmonella, Campylobacter, S. paratyphoi), bird droppings, and bird temperament. Licensing, the pastor and management discussed seeking consultation with the childcare's legal and insurance persons as well as considerations for a written family acknowledgment and authorization regarding the chickens on the property.

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A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.