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

Name of Center: LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 56 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24646

Street: 60 Edgewood RD NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52405 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 60 Edgewood RD NW , Cedar Rapids, IA, 52405

Director's Name: Jennifer Peak **Phone Number:** 319-981-9107

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Peak **E-Mail:** jpeak@lasallecatholiccr.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-04-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 03-15-2023

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.) 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	50	50	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 04-16-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has been a licensed program since October, 2015. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center is located inside LaSalle Catholic Elementary School and operates under a Board of Directors. The program provides 2-year-old childcare, preschool program, preschool-age childcare, and school-age childcare. Current enrollment is 56.

Combined director/on-site supervisor is Jennifer Peak. Ms. Peak has been the director/on-site supervisor of LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center since August, 2022. Ms. Peak has a has a BA degree in elementary education with an English reading endorsement. Ms. Peak has over 20 years of experience working with children and continues to participation in much child development related training.

On 4/4/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center offers a variety of early learning and childcare programming to help meet the needs of families and children in the community. The program is located in a predominantly urban area.

The year 2024 marks LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center's 8th year of providing licensed childcare and early learning services to children and their families throughout the community. Congratulations on celebrating 9 years!

The mission of the LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center is "...to provide all students with a Christ-centered education that is future oriented, grounded in educational excellence, and fosters a sense of community true to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church".

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has the following website for families: https://lasallecatholiccr.org/childcare.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has a history of participation in quality initiatives including the National School Lunch Program (2021) and past QRS. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center received a Certificate of Merit for "excellent behavior on the school bus" during child transport on 8/1/2016. The program also achieved the Bronze Healthier US School Challenge Smarter Lunchroom Award on 4/28/2015.

Ownership of LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has remained consistent. The 2023-2024 school-year marks Ms. Peak's second full year as director of the childcare. Ms. Peak is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as the program's own policies and procedures. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center continues to retain some seasoned staff as well as hire a few new ones. Staff reported celebrating 20 years, 3 years and 2 years employment with the program. Congratulations! The program continues to incorporate 2 annual staff professional growth training days into their program calendar. Ms. Peak acknowledged the positive feedback the program and staff have received from families.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County flood, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages and 2023 air quality alerts.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has an active parent association. The program 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. Family programming activities have historically included off-site field trip experiences, a "Back to School Night", end of the year preschool celebration, and seasonal/holiday celebrations.

Building and grounds are in good repair. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center is located inside the LaSalle Catholic Elementary School which is part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center operates under a school board of directors. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has a strong partnership with school administration, school custodial staff, school nurse/health staff, and school kitchen personnel in order to help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is regularly inspected by the local health department. There is an AED on-site. The licensed childcare and preschool programs have regular access to the school gymnasium for large gross motor activities. The licensed childcare and preschool programs are regularly invited to school assemblies and special school programming events including on-site guest speaker events (recent Veteran's Day prayer service). LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center and LaSalle Catholic Elementary School participate in collaborative fund raising efforts.

Furnishings and materials continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Curriculum occurs in a Christian environment and includes a combination strategies based upon Iowa Early Learning Strategies (e.g. religious education, physical activity, social-emotional components, Jolly Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears). Summer programming 2024 enrollment is currently underway. The 3yo preschool classroom sponsors a vertical aeroponic garden system inspiring children to lean how to enjoy simplified indoor gardening.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center collaborates well with community agencies, CCR&R, health professionals and a variety of local businesses.

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. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, diapering, cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were quite nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. building supplies, crafts, imaginative play experiences, puzzles, games, books). Activities offered were many (e.g. music with movement, foam letter bowling, East egg letter matching, sensory plan with kinetic sand, rhyming word discussion, block building, imaginative kitchen play, cutting with glue work, small group work with staff guitar playing). Routine daily transitions (e.g. clean-up events, restroom breaks) were observed. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, offering positive redirection when needed and encouraging social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their childcare experiences.

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

109.6(6). Record checks
- Staff file (JD; reported hire September 2022) reviewed lacked documentation of results of an Iowa and federal record check result.

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 (JD; reported hire September 2022) reviewed lacked documentation of a current physical exam.

109.7(2)b. Following their first year of employment, all center directors and all staff shall have and maintained required certifications and trainings.
- Staff file (JD; hire September 2022) reviewed lacked documentation of current first-aid, CPR and annual 6 hours of professional growth training.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment. For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
- Child files reviewed (PF, JG) lacked documentation of current physical exam.

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.
- Documentation of a monthly fire drill and monthly tornado drill was not found for June 2023 and July 2023.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
- Documentation of a monthly outdoor playground inspection was not found on the day monitoring visit.

109.11(7)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.
- Documentation of radon testing was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

109.11(7))c. To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, all centers shall, on an annual basis prior to the heating season, have a professional inspect all fuel-burning appliances, including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, and gas dryers, to ensure the appliances are in good working order with proper ventilation. All centers shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor of the center that is listed with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) as conforming to UL Standard 2034.
- A UL standard 2023 carbon monoxide detector was not in use on the day of the monitoring visit.

109.4(3) Required postings.
- The following required postings were not found on the day of the monitoring visit: consultant posting, emergency postings at all primary and secondary exit doors, current meal (lunch, breakfast) menu, a snack menu, daily room schedules, and lesson plans/plan of activities in each room.

109.8(2). Ratio maintained as required.
- On the day of the monitoring visit, 2yo room staff allowed 2yo children to access the school hallways and school restroom alone without any staff supervision. When licensing and staff talked about this, staff then took the entire 2yo group to the school restroom area but did not go into the restroom with the 2yo children to ensure they could use the school toilets, hand washing sinks/soap dispenser/paper towels properly. There was also an older group of elementary school-aged children accessing the restroom at the same time as the 2yo childcare children.
- On the day of the monitoring visit, 3yo room staff allowed 3yo children to access the school hallway lockers and for water breaks alone without any staff supervision. When a staff did take 1 child in the 3yo room to the restroom, this left the rest of the children with 1 staff and out of ratio.

109.12(5)e A supervised nap or quiet time for all children under the age of six not enrolled in school who are present at the center for five or more hours.
- Not all children under the age of six not enrolled in school who are present for 5 or more hours are being offered a nap/quiet rest including not having access to nap time materials (e.g. cots, bedding).

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please review diapering procedures and hand washing procedures with each staff (e.g. cleaning, disinfecting, hand wash after each change).

Prior to this report being completed, licensing was made aware that some items were in the process of being corrected. However, it was noted that many of the violations in this 2024 report were noted previously in 2023 and are carry-over citations.

A referral to CCR&R has been made for technical assistance.

The program's license remains in full status. 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.