Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Teaching and Learning For Christ Preschool

Provider No.: 39655

Address: 315 4th Ave NE, Belmond, IA, 50421

County: Wright

Director's Name: Ashley Pals

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6414444149

E-Mail: tlcpreschool123@yahoo.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/07/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2026 to 11/01/2028

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 12/23/2024

Comments:

**Report Visit Type:**

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

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

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

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| HOURS: | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | | 8:15 AM to 11:15 AM | |
| Tuesday | | 8:15 AM to 11:15 AM | |
| Wednesday | | 8:15 AM to 11:15 AM | |
| Thursday | | 8:15 AM to 11:15 AM | |
| Friday | | | |
| Saturday | | | |

**Program Population Served:**

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | | | 27 | | 27 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Teaching and Learning For Christ Preschool on 10-07-26 where I met with center director Ashley Pals. Ashley became the director at the start of the 2026-27 school year and is fully qualified for the position based on her experience, education, and on-going training. The program is located in a single classroom of the lower level of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond. The center is operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board of directors from the church. The center only provides preschool programming serving children 3 and 4 years of age. There are currently 14 children enrolled in the program served by Ashley and two assistants. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The layout of the classroom remains the same as in the previous report. The program is located in a single classroom that was constructed specifically for the preschool program on the lower level of the church. There are two exits on either side of the room both opening on stairwells that lead to direct exits. Windows are located along the upper edge of the exterior wall and provide natural light but no view or ventilation. The room is well lit with artificial lighting. Restroom facilities are available directly from the classroom so that children do not need to leave the room. A large basin sink with multiple spigots is located in the main classroom to facilitate hand washing. An additional sink is located in a counter and can be used for food preparation. A drinking fountain and water bottle fill station has also been installed. The room has an open floor plan with no issues noted with regard to construction or maintenance. The classroom is arranged to have a large open area where the children can move and play. Activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures and are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

Programming & Interaction:
The center uses the Creative Curriculum, and Joyful Heart Bible curriculum. Those systems work to identify general learning focus themes, specific learning concepts that include numbers, letters, colors, shapes, and a faith based component.

Good interactions were observed on the day of the visit with the teachers being actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum activities.
Both teachers had very positive and energetic attitudes joining with the children as they engaged in large group teacher lead activities.
The program uses positive behavior management techniques of recognizing positive behavior, reviewing explanations of expectations, and redirection. The center also uses a "thinking chair" when children need an opportunity to calm down or consider behavioral options.
Ratio was maintained in the center as required with two teachers present in the classroom.

Health & Safety:
Good health and safety practices were observed with the teachers reminding the children to wash their hands after restroom use, before meals, and other times they became soiled.
Tables were sanitized both before and after snack service with chemical cleaners being used when children were not in the immediate area.
First aid kits were present and stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.
The materials in the classroom were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

Nutrition:
Due to the limited hours of operation the center does not serve meals but snacks are provided. The parents take it in turn to provide the snack and a list of suggested items is provided.
A limited supply of snack items is maintained at the center to supplement if needed.
Good food storage and service practices were observed with most snacks being prepackaged single serving items. Bulk packaged items were placed in sealed containers after having been opened. Thermometers were present in refrigeration units.
The center does maintain a menu of items that are served.
The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the tables.

Playground:
The center playground is fully enclosed by fencing, and does not include any climbing structures but does have various ground play activity centers.
Additional materials such as balls and other toys are kept in a storage shed and brought out for use. All of the equipment was observed to be in good repair.
Shade is provided by the building and large mature trees.

Administration:
Required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and License Certificate were posted in areas readily accessible and visible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for hand washing, emergency evacuation, and emergency numbers were also posted as required.
All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation with the exception of Response Plans.
All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required documentation
All inspection logs and certificates were current and available with the exception of fuel burning appliances which was expired.
The parent handbook was reviewed and several required written policies need to be added, and other updated to include all required elements.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

109.4(1): Written policies on: Enrollment and discharge. Field trips and non-center activities. Discipline/Behavior/Biting. Nutrition. Health and safety policies. Transportation if applicable. Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center. Protecting children’s confidentiality.

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

-- Policies need to be added or expanded to include all required elements for Transportation, Discipline, Health & Safety (major/minor injury, exclusion, handwashing, response plans), Incident Reporting (injury, significant change in functioning, sexualized behavior), Staff Orientation & Training, Confidentiality.

109.9(2)k: Any child with special health needs, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
-- Response plans were not present for children with identified allergies as required.

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Documentation present showed that the last inspection was completed in 2024.

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

A list of required written policies with suggestions for implementation was given to Ashley.

Sample forms for allergy and other health concerns were provided to the center. It was reviewed that response plans are required for any identified allergy or health issue. This would includes issues such as medication related allergies where while the center may not administer medications it is still possible for a child to have exposure and suffer a reaction.

Ashley was informed that the fuel burning appliances inspection should be scheduled prior to the start of the coming cold weather heating season.

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/08/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.