Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Isaac Newton Christian Academy Pre-K

Provider No.: 25048

Address: 1635 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

County: Linn

Director's Name: Deland Pearson

On-Site Supervisor: Deland Pearson

Phone Number: 3193629512

E-Mail: aschneider@incaonline.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/15/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/13/2025

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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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Isaac Newton Christian Academy Pre-K and Pre-K (INCAP) is located inside Isaac Newton Christian Academy and governed by the Linn Christian Education Association. Isaac Newton Christian Academy has been in operation since August 1989. Isaac Newton Christian Academy and INCAP are both accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

Since the last review, INCAP obtained a new combined director/on-site supervisor Deland Pearson. Mr. Pearson is also Isaac Newton Christian Academy's lower school principal. Mr. Pearson has a MA degree in Biblical Counseling, has experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/15/2025, building, grounds and program space were observed to all be in good repair. Primary programming occurs in one pristine, extremely well-organized classroom located on the lower level. Since the last review, a new outdoor natural seating memorial area was established. On the day of the monitoring visit, activities observed were many including religious story with discussion, outdoor large gross motor play, handwriting-phonics work, and lunch rituals. Curriculum allowed for a variety of play experiences that were observed to peak child interest as well as encourage social emotional growth, innovation and child choice. Routine transitions went well. On 9/15/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of Isaac Newton Christian Academy and INCAP is "...to provide the highest quality Christian education program available through consistent and comprehensive incorporation of biblical principles. In a Christ-centered, loving environment, the student will achieve academic excellence and individual character development as well as mental, physical, and spiritual growth. The result will be a well-educated, caring student, ready and able to serve The Lord Jesus Christ in the community..."

INCAP has the following website for families and the community to access information about the program: https://www.incaonline.org/schools/Pre_K.cfm.

INCAP continues to operate under a board of directors. The program's management team (e.g. head of school Dean Ridder, lower school principal and childcare director Mr. Pearson, school office personnel, lead Pre-K teacher Ms. Riggs) continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. While Mr. Pearson is new to the INCAP director role, he has been employed with Isaac Newton Christian Academy for over a year. Ms. Riggs has also been the lead Pre-K teacher for over 4 years. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Riggs discussed being

happy to continue her tenure with INCAP which has allowed her to increase classroom organization and really allow the curriculum to flourish.

INCAP continues efforts at optimal communication. The program has an organized parent-staff/program center, offers regular program newsletters, offers an all-school weekly newsletter called "Newton News", utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have included spirit days, Grandparent's Day, Christian College Day, back to school carnival, an annual capital campaign and parent/program conferences. Curriculum remains uniquely blended to include reading readiness, emphasizing math skills, and presenting units in many disciplines (e.g. social studies, science, music, technology, art, physical education). Curriculum continues to also include on-site guest speaker events, off-site field experiences, and enrichment activities. Ms. Riggs acknowledged how many children are reading before advancing into kindergarten and how families continue to express much happiness with the program.

As of 9/15/2025, INCAP continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, Ms. Riggs discussed how staff help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures. Ms. Riggs also talked about having active support from Isaac Newton Christian Academy school personnel (e.g. custodial staff, maintenance staff, administrators, kitchen food service persons) as well as INCAP board to additionally help ensure space is sanitary and hazard free. There is an AED on-site. Pre-K children have access to the school lunch program. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department.

INCAP has emergency plans, policies, and procedures. INCAP has successfully navigated through the 2008 Linn County flood, 2019 Polar Vortex, 2019 health (COVID-19) pandemic, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, air quality alerts (2023, 2025) and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Continue to ensure food moved from one area to another (e.g. kitchen to classroom) is covered.

Please obtain an ADA compliant swing for the outdoor playground as well as some nature items (e.g. bird feeders, butterfly habitat, outdoor magnifying glasses, outdoor musical instruments). Please also increase large gross motor materials (e.g. balls, balancing items, steppingstones, balance boards, hula hoops, scooters, bubbles, sidewalk chalk) as well as classroom art easel, art cart, consumable crafts (e.g. paints, construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons, popsicle sticks, pom-poms, pipe cleaners, cotton balls, jewels) manipulatives (e.g. stacking, interlocking, Magna tiles, ramp exploration, gears) and sensory items (e.g. individual themed sensory bins or table, color changing light table, musical instruments).

To help with the items noted in this special recommendations section of this report, please apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R (https://iowaccrr.org/staff/; Region 5 Director Becky White at 563-484- 4587).

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

Date: 10/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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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**.