Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool

Provider No.: 43822

Address: 200 2nd St Sw, Waukon, IA, 52172

County: Allamakee

Director's Name: Kieran Walsh

On-Site Supervisor: Aubrie Monroe

Phone Number: 5635682415

E-Mail: kwalsh@st-pats.pvt.k12.ia.us,kfahey@st-pats.pvt.k12.ia.us,

HHS Visit Date: 09/15/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/08/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	16	34	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 09/15/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool in Waukon. I met with Kieran Walsh, the director and lead teacher for the preschool. Ms. Walsh has been with the program since March 2021. She has an associate degree in an unrelated field. Ms. Walsh has completed the "director class" through Hawkeye Community College. Crystal Corwin is the associate in the preschool room Monday through Friday. Ms. Corwin started in August 2022. Aubrie Monroe is the on-site supervisor and oversees the latchkey program. Ms. Monroe has a diploma in early childhood education. She has been employed in the latchkey program since August 2022. She has her paraeducator's license from the Iowa BOEE with an area of concentration in Early Childhood Education, and she also holds her substitute authorization. Tiffany Koenig is the principal of the school. There are ten employees who work in the latchkey/summer program and two employees in the preschool program.

This program was given permission to open in August 2014. The preschool program is in the St. Patrick Catholic School lower building. The latchkey/summer program is in the St. Patrick Catholic School upper building in the gym and a classroom off the gym. The preschool program operates during the school year, Monday through Friday from 8:15 am until 3:15 pm. The preschool program serves three and four-year-old children. Parents have the option of sending their children Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. There are 29 preschool children.

The school year latchkey program is known as the PAWS program (Play, Academics, Wonder, Service). The summer childcare program is known as Wildcat Daycare Den Summer Program. The morning latchkey program operates from 7:00-8:15 am and the after-school program operates from 3:15-5:00 pm.

There is currently a total of 158 children enrolled between the latchkey and preschool program. The preschool children can

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also use the latchkey program.

The program operates a summer care program so they provide care all year round for children. During the summer they serve children who are four years old and older. The summer program operates out of the gym and the classroom off the gym. They operate Monday through Friday.

An inspection of the spaces was completed. The program was in ratio during the latchkey and preschool programs during my visit. Windows provide natural lighting in the preschool room. Artificial lighting is used in the gym. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist in the learning process, such as the alphabet, numbers, colors and shapes. There is an area for circle time. The preschool has a Promethean Smart board.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, woodworking, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

Cots are used to nap in the preschool class.

There is a bathroom in the preschool classroom with one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted.

The latchkey children use bathrooms outside of the gym. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and one sink. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, one urinal and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. The preschool classroom started using a new curriculum in the preschool class, "Making Reading Heavenly" to work on letters and they have started using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. A lesson plan was available for review in the preschool room.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number posted in the preschool room. Post the emergency numbers near the phone in the gym classroom. The rooms use two-way radios to communicate. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the preschool room, the gym and the latchkey classroom. A daily schedule was posted in the preschool room and in the latchkey space.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills for the preschool class and before and after school/summer program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in August 2026 in the preschool room and the latchkey area. The results were within EPA guidelines. There is a radon mitigation system in the preschool room that was installed in November 2012. Radon testing is only good for two years in the preschool classroom because they have a radon mitigation system. Radon testing is good for five years in the latchkey program because they are in a separate building and they do not have a radon mitigation system.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed in both buildings and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the preschool room on top of the cubbies and in the latchkey program on the east wall of the art room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/08/24.

The preschool is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines. Lunch is prepared by St. Patrick's School cafeteria staff and delivered to the preschool room. The school provides the lunch menu and it was posted in the room. Children are allowed to bring their lunches from home. The program must monitor the food brought from home and supplement them as necessary so they meet CACFP guidelines.

Parents donate snacks at the beginning of the school year and it is posted on a donation board in the school when more snacks are needed. Ms. Walsh makes the snack menu based off what is donated. The children are offered a morning snack that they refer to as a "breakfast" snack when they arrive for the program if they are hungry. The program did have a breakfast snack menu. The preschool program also offers an afternoon snack. The preschool had documentation of snack

menus. The children eat everything in the classroom. Dishes are sent back to the kitchen to be washed. Staff members are dishing out the food for the children.

During the morning latchkey program, the children can bring breakfast from home to eat. Once they are released, they can eat breakfast through the school. The latchkey program serves an afternoon snack and a snack menu was present. Disposable products are used. The latchkey program eats everything in the gym.

During the summer program the children are served breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The program receives breakfast and snack foods as a donation from the Dollar Fresh store in town and the school also provides these items. The program uses a one week rotation for snack menus. All menus were available for review. The latchkey program eats in the school cafeteria.

There is a kitchenette in the preschool room. There is a refrigerator and thermometers were present. Food was stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is also a sink available in this area. The latchkey program uses a room off the gym that has a refrigerator and sink. A thermometer was present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The preschool program uses Clorox disinfecting wipes to sanitize the food tables. They have a ten second dwell time. The latchkey program is using Lysol Wipes. This product has a ten second dwell time.

The school has a new playground. The playground area is fenced in. Pour-in-place material is used for fall surfacing under the climbing equipment and woodchips are used on the swings and a stationary tractor the children can play on. There are two new pieces of climbing equipment. They have slides and several other activities. There are a picnic table and benches for the children to rest. Trees provide shade. There is also a large shade structure.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the preschool classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The parent board for the latchkey/summer program is located outside of the gym classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 16 children files. The preschool files were in great condition. The latchkey files were missing several items. Three files did not have emergency contact names and phone numbers for someone other than the parents. Seven files did not provide any emergency dental or doctor contact information. Seven files did not have documentation allowing the program to seek emergency care or permission for field trips. There was one missing school age health statement and four missing preschool physicals in the latchkey program. Four latchkey preschool files did not have immunization certificates. I have provided Ms. Monroe with the missing information and she and Ms. Koenig are working on corrections.

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member had an outdated physical. One staff member did not have documentation of on-going training hours. I have been informed that the staff member has tried to complete on-going training but is having problems with getting into I-Power. I have also been told that staff members have signed up for trainings and then trainings are cancelled. The employee will not be cited for on-going training hours since she has been unable to log into I-Powe and I-Power has not fixed the problem.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. However, you must add more detailed information to your staff professional development policy. The policy must outline the HHS requirements. The current policy only mentions first aid and CPR. It also states staff members must only complete six hours of training. Employees must complete 10 hours of their first year and then the director and on-site supervisor must have eight hours of on-going training hours and all other employees must complete six hours of on-going training. If you need an example of the policy, please let me know. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff members in the PAWS program have a good routine. Children can move between the gym and the classroom off the gym and there are staff members in both locations. They moved around the spaces to provide supervision and interact with

the children. Staff members had positive interaction with the children. The staff members walk the younger children to the lower building at the conclusion of latchkey.

In the preschool room Ms. Walsh and Ms. Corwin had great teamwork. They were upbeat and provided a fun leaning environment for the children. The children were enjoying free play when I arrived in the room. They then prepared to move to the rug for circle time. One child is the “greeter” and that child decides how they are going to greet each child before they sit on the rug. Once on the rug they talked about the weather, enjoyed music and movement and then sang the alphabet and counted. The children then went outside to the playground. Staff members were down on the children’s level to talk with them. They engaged the children in positive conversation and included them in problem solving. Staff members provided the children with praise.

Ms. Walsh states they are using learning resources that the children enjoy.

Ms. Walsh states the parents enjoy the ClassDojo app they use for communication.

Ms. Walsh states the principal of the school is doing a great job at helping them provide a well-rounded program.

The preschool program is in a secure building.

The program has a new playground for the children.

Air condition units were added to the preschool room.

Ms. Walsh states she sees growth in the children every year.

The program provides summer childcare and they plan fun activities and take field trips. The parents appreciate the program.

The program provides before and after school care for the children. This is a valuable resource for parents so they do not have to worry about finding care for their children before and after school.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)b: 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.
There was one outdated physical.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Three files did not have emergency contact names and phone numbers for someone other than the parents. Seven files did not provide any emergency dental or doctor contact information. Seven files did not have documentation allowing the program to seek emergency care.

109.9(2)g: All files contain parent authorization for attendance at center-sponsored field trips and non-center activities. If an inclusive authorization form for activities is used, a copy is kept on file at the center.
Seven files did not have permission for field trips.

109.9(2)h: Signed and dated valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization, provided by the department must be on file for each child enrolled as required by Iowa Administrative Code 641—7.
Four latchkey preschool files did not have immunization certificates.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor,

PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
There were four missing preschool physicals in the latchkey program.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Aubrie Monroe as the new on-site supervisor.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Walsh her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Walsh states that she and Ms. Corwin know who works better with certain children. They know it is okay to take a break and the other one will step in. She monitors the situation in the preschool room by always being present.

In the PAWS program they have Behavior Consequence Plans that all staff must abide by. Step one is a verbal warning. Step two is a behavior report. Step three is consequences. Consequence one (strike one) the child is removed from the program for two days. Consequence two (strike two) the child is removed for five days. Consequence three (strike three) the child is removed for the remainder of the school year.

Date: 09/28/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.