Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Joyful Sparks Preschool

Provider No.: 28281

Address: 111 S Douglas, Afton, IA, 50830

County: Union

Director's Name: Regan Fehrle

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6413447301

E-Mail: reganfehrle@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/07/2026

Licensing Period: 04/01/2025 to 04/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/08/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8.00 AM to 3:00 PM	
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			15		15
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Joyful Sparks Preschool on 5/7/26. The center is located in the Methodist Church in Afton, Iowa. Joyful Sparks Preschool is a non-profit organization that is run by the board. The center provides preschool services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. I met with the Director, Regan Fehrle, on my visit. Regan has been the director since 1999. She has a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education and a Preschool Endorsement. Regan said she has multiple degrees and endorsements. There are eight children enrolled.

Observation of room:
The preschool uses one large room. Some of the children attend all day and others attend only in the morning. There are boys' and girls' restrooms with two toilets and one sink in each. The center looks great and has a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There were numerous centers throughout the preschool. Toys and equipment are rotated at least monthly or more often if needed. The children's fun artwork is displayed. The children were having fun, coloring, having a snack, and having a dance party. Regan and her assistant teacher, Leslie, had excellent interactions with the children; they were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Creative Curriculum/Teaching Strategies Gold and Handwriting Without Tears are used. Regan develops the daily lesson plans with related fun hands-on learning experiences for the children. Currently, the children are growing beanstalks, earth buddies, sunflowers, and mystery plants. Regan showed me a color journal for one of the children. It was very apparent the progress the child made from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. The center provides family events throughout the year. Every year the center has a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. A monthly newsletter/calendar is provided to the parents. Regan has two parent teacher conferences each year to discuss goals and progress.

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Nutrition:
The children that participate in full day programming bring their lunch and proper refrigeration is provided. The center has a snack area. The center has an open snack time where healthy snacks are provided and the children can choose what they would like. It is shut down by 10:15 AM so the children will eat their lunch. Appropriate food storage practices are maintained. The center is not on the federal food program and Regan admitted she knew nothing about the CACFP. Even if a center is not on the federal food program, they still need to follow the CACFP guidelines. Please make sure to follow CACFP guidelines. They all make lunch together on Thursdays.

Health and Safety:
Radon testing was completed in January 2025 with a test result of 1.4 pCi/L. Radon testing is due every five years if the results are below 4.0 pCi/L. Fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented monthly. The center has a carbon monoxide detector. Make sure you have an annual fuel burning inspection if you have fuel burning appliances. Regan said they have all electrical appliances. There was a furnace inspection on 10/22/25 but it was not for fuel burning appliances. The first aid kit looked good. There are three first aid kits and one travels with them when they leave the building. No children are administered medication during preschool hours; however, Regan is medication certified. The emergency preparedness plan has been completed. The center uses Sanidate Hard Surface Sanitizer and bleach water for disinfection. They use bleach wipes in between.

Playground:
The playground area is fenced and has a playhouse, plastic climber, benches, shade structure, music center, and a shed. The focus is on a natural outdoor classroom. They have a cement area that is used for riding trikes, sidewalk chalk, and other activities. Pea gravel is used for surfacing. Monthly playground inspections are completed. There is a new playhouse on the playground and wood walkways will be added. There is a wood bridge currently. Regan wants to build wood walkways to go from house to house. The children enjoy riding bikes down the grassy hill.

Transportation:
The preschool doesn't provide transportation services. Some of the children utilize the transportation service from the Trolley. Field trips are taken throughout the year to a variety of places such as Blank Park Zoo, science center, farm, and pumpkin patch. The parents provide transportation for their own children to field trips.

Administrative Files:
The center has the required postings. The center has the required policies and procedures. Regan’s file was reviewed and two children’s files were reviewed and all were in excellent order.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Regan has a wonderful preschool program. Regan and Leslie had excellent interactions with the children. The children participate in fun hands-on learning opportunities. The center has received grants and they have new flooring, new blinds, a new dishwasher, adding a hood for the stove, a new roof on the shed, new playhouse on the playground, and wood walkways will be added to the playground area. Fundraising events are held throughout the year. Family oriented activities are offered throughout the year i.e. muffins with mom, donuts with dad, family night, spaghetti dinner, and science night. The center is IQ4K level 1. The center is participating in the WAGE$ program. Regan identified the center’s strengths as having good teachers and good community support. They will go trick-or-treating around the town square. The children go Christmas caroling in December. They also make May baskets for the town square.

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

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A full license is recommended for 4/1/25 to 4/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Regan her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Regan said she always deals with behavior management issues. Regan has special education training, PBIS, and other behavioral training courses. Staff will tag each other out if needed. They also use Al's Pals.

Date: 05/11/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.