Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Storm Lake St Mary's Preschool

Provider No.: 46120

Address: 312 Seneca ST, Storm Lake, IA, 50588

County: Buena Vista

Director's Name: Amanda Woodall

On-Site Supervisor: Sara Kreutz (preschool)
Lori Gambert (BASP)

Phone Number: 7127324166

E-Mail: kswanson@stmarys-storm.pvt.k12.ia.us
awoodall@stormlakestmarys.org

HHS Visit Date: 01/15/2026

Licensing Period: 02/01/2026 to 02/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/20/2022

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 2

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Monday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Friday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Saturday		8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	

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			23	25	48
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On January 15, 2025, I conducted an unannounced licensing visit at Storm Lake Saint Mary's Preschool, where I met with Program Director and School Principal, Amanda Woodall. Amanda is new to her role with this program but brings strong qualifications through her education and extensive experience in the field of education. The preschool classroom is led by Sara Kreutz, and the after-school program is overseen by Lori Gambert. Both staff members are highly qualified, demonstrating a solid foundation of education, experience, and ongoing professional development in early childhood care and education.

The program operates within Saint Mary's Catholic School in Storm Lake and is affiliated with the Archdiocese of Sioux City. It functions as a non-profit entity, offering formal preschool programming for three-year-old children and after-school care for school-age children. Currently, 15 children are enrolled in the preschool program, and approximately 35 children participate in the after-school program. At the time of my visit, 13 children were present. The preschool operates Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, while the after-school program runs daily from approximately 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM.

All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The preschool classroom is located on the second floor of an annex building behind the main school structure. The space is bright and welcoming, with large windows providing natural light and ventilation. Restroom facilities are conveniently located just outside the classroom, and an additional sink within the room supports frequent handwashing. The classroom is thoughtfully arranged into distinct activity centers using furniture and shelving, creating an engaging and organized environment for learning and play. Toys and materials were observed to be in good repair and age-appropriate for the

children present. The room was clean, well-maintained, and free of any concerns related to safety or upkeep.

The program utilizes Creative Curriculum as its foundation for early learning, supporting developmentally appropriate practices and hands-on exploration. In addition, Writing Through Tears is incorporated to foster early literacy skills in a gentle, supportive manner. As part of its identity as a Catholic school, the program also integrates a religious curriculum, promoting spiritual growth and values alongside academic and social development. These combined approaches reflect a commitment to nurturing the whole child—academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

The after-school program takes place in the school's cafeteria, a spacious area that provides plenty of room for activities. Restroom facilities are conveniently located just off the cafeteria for easy access. The space includes large folding trestle tables along with additional dining tables and chairs, creating a flexible environment for both meals and play. Because the cafeteria serves multiple purposes, toys, games, and other materials for the program are neatly stored in a dedicated closet and thoughtfully brought out when the program is in session, ensuring an organized and inviting atmosphere for the children.

Positive interactions were consistently observed, with teachers actively engaging with the children, responding to their needs, and thoughtfully implementing the planned curriculum. The class smoothly transitioned through the day's schedule, which included lunch, a teacher-led large group activity, story time, and small group learning experiences. The center continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to proactive, positive behavior supports by incorporating clear routines, engaging transition activities, positive recognition, gentle redirection, and guided problem-solving strategies to help children develop social and emotional skills in a supportive environment.
Strong health and safety practices were evident throughout the visit. A first aid kit is maintained in the classroom, with additional supplies readily available in the school office to ensure preparedness. Monthly fire drills, /tornado drills and playground inspections have been completed.

School custodians handle the primary cleaning responsibilities; teachers also take care to maintain cleanliness throughout the day as needed. Outdoor play spaces are thoughtfully designed, with one area featuring large climbing structures for school-age children and a separate fenced section dedicated to preschoolers. The preschool playground includes ground-level and dramatic play structures, a patio area, and a small arch climber. Pea gravel provides fall protection beneath the equipment, though a full assessment of surfacing was limited due to weather conditions. Natural shade is offered by surrounding buildings and trees, and the school gymnasium is available for active play when outdoor conditions are unfavorable.

Preschool children enjoy lunch in the school cafeteria, remaining together as a class at a designated table while older students dine nearby. Meals are prepared and served by the school cafeteria staff, with modifications made to meet the nutritional requirements outlined by CACFP guidelines, ensuring that children receive balanced and healthy meals.

Goals for this year include have meals brought to the preschool building so that children do not need to go to the main building.

They would also like to increase enrollment and do haves space readily available to do this.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

All necessary staff information has been entered into IPOWER.

Staff were actively engaged with children at their level, creating meaningful connections and fostering a sense of belonging. The classroom was alive with joyful activities, including singing and interactive experiences that captured the children's interest and encouraged participation.

he after-school program is offered at a reasonable and affordable cost, making it accessible to families in the community and supporting their ability to provide quality care and enrichment for their children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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I note that it is not the annual fuel burning inspection that this center needs, but rather an updated Fire Inspection. I entered the above in error. Annual fuel bunring has been completed in 2025.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identified are corrected. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 01/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.