Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Noah's Ark Preschool

Provider No.: 30247

Address: 1425 Pleasant Court Dr, Sheldon, IA, 51201

County: Obrien

Director's Name: Liesl Lidiak

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7126310010

E-Mail: noahsark@nethtc.net

HHS Visit Date: 02/05/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/11/2024

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Wednesday		8:15 AM to 2:45 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 2:45 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			39		39
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On February 5, 2025, I completed an unannounced visit at Noah’s Ark Preschool, located in the educational wing of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sheldon. Upon arrival, I was able to speak with Liesl Lidiak, the director and lead preschool teacher. Liesl holds a degree in Elementary Education and brings an impressive twenty-four years of experience working with children. Liesl's along with her staff's calm, confident demeanor and clear passion for early childhood education set a positive tone for the visit.

The preschool environment reflects a strong commitment to creating a safe, nurturing space for children. Classrooms are bright and inviting, with age-appropriate materials thoughtfully arranged to encourage exploration and learning. The atmosphere is warm and engaging, with children actively participating in activities that promote both social and academic growth.

The preschool operates Monday through Thursday, offering two sessions: mornings from 8:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. for four-year-old children and afternoons from 12:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. for three-year-old children. At the time of my visit, there were 20 children present, and the program currently serves a total enrollment of 43 children.
The center features one large classroom and four smaller rooms designed for small-group activities. Each space is thoughtfully arranged with age-appropriate materials and cozy areas that encourage exploration, creativity, and social interaction. The environment felt bright, welcoming, and well-organized, with children actively engaged in activities that promote both academic and social development.

The classroom was bright and inviting, with colorful displays of shapes, letters of the alphabet, and children’s artwork thoughtfully arranged throughout the space. During the visit, staff were actively engaged with the children—assisting with a

variety of activities, conversing with them, and gently reminding them of classroom rules. Their interactions were warm and positive, creating an atmosphere that encouraged participation and learning. The center follows the Creative Curriculum and uses GOLD Assessments to guide instruction and monitor each child's developmental progress. The Creative Curriculum is a research-based approach that emphasizes learning through play and exploration. It is designed to support the whole child—fostering growth in social-emotional, cognitive, physical, and language development. Teachers create engaging environments filled with purposeful materials and guide children's learning through open-ended questions and hands-on experiences. The curriculum uses project-style investigations, called "studies," to spark curiosity and encourage problem-solving and creativity.

This week, the children have been learning about owls through a variety of engaging activities, including creating owl-themed artwork. The center invited a representative from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to share information about owls and their habits, providing a hands-on learning experience. During my visit, several children were able to explain that owls are nocturnal, describe what that means, and even discuss how owls process their food. It was clear that the children enjoyed the lessons and activities, as they were eager to share their knowledge and participate enthusiastically.

All staff members at the center are trained in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a framework that promotes positive behavior through proactive strategies and consistent expectations. This approach helps create a supportive and structured environment where children can learn social-emotional skills and thrive. We did discuss their process in addressing negative behaviors in the classroom. If this occurs staff initially sits by the child to redirect and if needs a time out is given and a discussion is had with the child. The child is then reintroduced into the classroom.

The refrigerator was clean and maintained at the appropriate temperature. Snacks are provided by parents each day, and while the center is not currently enrolled in the food program, it follows the program's guidelines for offering nutritious snacks. Parents receive a recommended snack list that aligns with these standards. Good food storage practices were observed throughout the visit. The center does not administer medication. During the visit, I observed staff and children consistently practicing good handwashing procedures, reinforcing healthy habits throughout the day. The center was very clean, well-organized, and maintained to a high standard, creating a safe and welcoming environment for learning.

The center maintains strong safety and emergency preparedness practices. A fully stocked first aid kit is available to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly, and annual heating system maintenance has been completed. Radon testing results are within the normal range, and the facility is equipped with a radon mitigation system for added safety.

Outdoor play takes place in a large, fenced-in, grass-covered playground adjacent to the church. There is no permanent playground equipment; instead, staff bring out age-appropriate toys daily to ensure variety and safety. A monthly playground inspection was completed and documented. The center does not transport children; however, a school bus is used for field trips and transportation to daycare within the town.

Goals are to increase enrollment.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

One of the program's greatest strengths is its experienced and dedicated staff, many of whom have been with the center for several years. This longevity provides consistency for children and families and fosters strong, trusting relationships. The center also benefits from the ongoing support of the church where it is housed, creating a sense of community and stability

Staff members consistently exceed the training requirements set by licensing, demonstrating a strong commitment to professional growth and high-quality care. In addition to mandatory courses, staff participate in ongoing professional development covering topics such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), child development, health and safety practices, emergency preparedness, curriculum implementation, inclusive classroom strategies, and ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale) training. This comprehensive approach ensures staff are well-prepared to provide safe, developmentally appropriate, and enriching experiences for all children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 02/10/2026

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**.