Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Trinity Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 44020

Address: 1825 530th St, Cherokee, IA, 51012

County: Cherokee

Director's Name: Shannon Schwarz

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122212718

E-Mail: preschool@trinitycherokee.org

HHS Visit Date: 11/24/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/06/2025

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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:30 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			30		30
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit on 11/24/25 where I was able to speak with Director Shannon Schwarz. Shannon has her elementary education degree/early childhood and many years of experience working at the center. Trinity Lutheran Preschool is located in a building that was renovated for a preschool in Cherokee. The program has a morning and afternoon sessions: 8:30 to 11:30am & 12:30pm to 3:30pm on Monday thru Thursday for three & four-year-olds. There are 39 children in this program and 16 present at the time of my visit.

The center provides a sufficient number of toys and equipment to meet the developmental needs of the children. A daily schedule of activities was posted in each classroom. Educational visuals were displayed throughout the rooms, including colors, shapes, the five senses, a picture schedule, a job chart, children's artwork, and the alphabet.

Staff were observed actively engaging with children—assisting with a variety of activities, leading group exercises, reinforcing classroom rules, and maintaining consistent, positive communication.

The program utilizes a blend of curricula to support a well-rounded educational experience. Pocket of Preschool offers a play-based approach that fosters exploration and supports early literacy, math, and social-emotional development. Abeka Christian Curriculum provides a structured foundation in early academics with a faith-based perspective, emphasizing character development and foundational skills. Handwriting Without Tears supports fine motor development and early writing skills through multisensory, developmentally appropriate instruction. This combination of curricula allows the center to address multiple learning domains while meeting the diverse needs of the children in their care.

The refrigerator was clean and maintained at the appropriate temperature. Proper food storage practices were observed

throughout the kitchen. Nutritious snacks are provided by parents, guided by a list of approved items supplied by parents. The program follows CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) guidelines to ensure nutritional standards are met.

The center does not administer medication. Tables were sanitized prior to meals, and both staff and children were observed practicing proper handwashing procedures. A well-stocked first aid kit was available and sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire and tornado drills are documented monthly. As the facility uses electric heating, a carbon monoxide detector is not required. Overall, good sanitary procedures were consistently followed. All program areas were observed to be clean, well-maintained, and organized. The center has strong health and safety policies and procedures in place. Outdoor play areas include a fenced-in playground adjacent to the center, surfaced with shredded rubber for safety. The playground features a cement riding track for tricycles, along with trikes, helmets, and a variety of outdoor toys. A grassy area is also available for running and gross motor play.

Monthly playground inspections are conducted to ensure ongoing safety.

For indoor large motor activities, the program utilizes a gym located in the basement. The center transports children to preschool using a church bus equipped with appropriate restraints and also uses this bus for field trips. Additionally, the program offers a transportation service to pick up children from their homes or other local childcare settings. Monthly fire /tornado drills completed along with playground inspections. First Aid kit has adequate supplies to treat minor injuries.

The center's goals include joining the IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) program and supporting student retention by fostering both academic and social growth to ensure children are well-prepared for kindergarten. As a faith-based program, the center integrates spiritual values into daily learning, and staff take pride in providing nurturing, developmentally appropriate support to young children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center benefits from strong community support, including involvement from the church, board members, and local community partners. Staff expressed appreciation for this support, which contributes to the overall success and sustainability of the program.

The center maintains a positive, welcoming atmosphere with a wide variety of engaging activities designed to make learning enjoyable and meaningful for children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Volunteers and employeed must sigh the statement of no convictions.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The Director needs to email consultant by 12/31/25 confirming that all items that fall below standard have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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

Date: 11/25/2025

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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**.