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: Chelsey Woodbeck

Phone Number: 5635682415

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

HHS Visit Date: 09/15/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

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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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 09/15/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. Patrick's Clover Patch Preschool in Waukon. I met with Kieran Walsh, the director and lead teacher for the preschool. I also met with Katie Fahey, the on-site supervisor and the principal at St. Patrick's School. 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. Chelsey Woodbeck is the on-site supervisor and oversees the latchkey program. Ms. Woodbeck has an AA in early childhood education and a sub authorization. She has been employed in the latchkey program since 2014. Tiffany Koenig is the new principal for the school. There are nine 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. 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 90 children enrolled between the latchkey and preschool program. There are 34 preschool children. The preschool children can 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.

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.

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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 licensed spaces. 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. The latchkey program needs to spread out when they practice their drills. They should be practiced during the morning and afternoon hours.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in September 2025 in the preschool room and in September 2033 in 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 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. This past school year the children ate lunch at the public school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in June and August. In July the children ate lunch at Zion Church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The children always ate lunch at St. Patrick on Wednesdays during the summer. The program receives breakfast and snack foods as a donation from the Dollar Fresh store in town and the school also provides these items. Menus were available for review.

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.

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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 preschool playground area is fenced in. Pea gravel is used for surface cushioning. There is climbing equipment that has slides and other activities. There are also swings, a picnic table and benches. They have a stationary tractor for the children to play on and there is a picnic table in the area if the children want to rest. The children are not allowed on the monkey bars or the fire poles because of their ages. Trees provide shade. The playground is going to be remodeled in October. They will use pour-in-place fall surfacing.

The school age playground is mostly fenced in. They used pea gravel for surface cushioning and there is also a large grassy area. There is a large piece of climbing equipment that has rings and monkey bars. There are also swings. There is a balance beam. There are benches and a picnic table in the area. Trees provide shade.

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 program is located on a bulletin board inside the gym. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Walsh is a great teacher. She is organized and has terrific classroom skills. Ms. Walsh and Ms. Corwin make a great team. The children were going outside to the playground to enjoy the nice weather when I arrived. Ms. Walsh takes a stackable ice cream toy outside for the children and they were enjoying making ice cream cones and filling them with the pea gravel. The children were bringing their ice cream cones over to Ms. Walsh to share their creations. Staff members were spread out on the playground and actively engaged with the children. They returned inside and teachers worked one on one with children on two apple worksheets where they identify the letter “A” in apples on one and they drew apples in trees based on the number on the worksheet on the other. Staff members talked with the children about sharing. They took the time to listen to the children’s stories. I observed children walking up and hugging staff members. They provided clear and easy to read directions.

In the latchkey/summer childcare program I have continued to see positive improvements through the years. Ms. Woodbeck has been overseeing the program and it was great to see the paperwork organized and in good condition. The staff members working on the morning of my visit had terrific teamwork. They were spread between the classroom and the gym and the children were able to move between the two spaces. The staff were upbeat and friendly. They were actively engaged with the children in activities. They provided praise to the children and used positive redirection when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program. The staff members walk the younger children to the lower building at the conclusion of latchkey.

Ms. Walsh states they are getting a new preschool playground. She does not know what equipment they will have but they will have pour-in-place fall surfacing.

Ms. Walsh states they are working toward an IQ4K level 1.

The children receive vision screenings through the Lion’s Club. Ms. Walsh states the staff members make a good team.

Ms. Walsh states they provide a safe environment for the children.

Ms. Walsh states the program receives good support from the principal and other teachers in the school.

Ms. Walsh states she provides a well rounded preschool program for the children. She sees growth in the children every year.

Ms. Walsh states they are using Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and they use the Making Reading Heavenly as part of their curriculum. The children really like it.

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The program provides summer childcare and they plan fun activities and take field trips. The parents appreciate the program. This past summer the children took field trips to parks, the New Albin Splash Pad, bowling in Decorah, movie theater and the Lansing Splash Pad and Park. They use buses for transportation. They also have the Iowa State Extension office and the Allamakee Farm Bureau visit during the summer months.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

N/A

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 for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

You need to practice the fire and tornado drills in the latchkey and summer childcare programs during various times of the day. They should be practiced in the morning and the afternoon.

An administrative change is being made to remove Katherine Fahey as the on-site supervisor. She is no longer with the school. Chelsey Woodbeck is the new on-site supervisor. An administrative change is also being made to change the hours of the program from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm. They used to close at 5:30 pm.

Date: 09/25/2025

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**.