Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center **Enrollment:** 72 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 24646

Street: 60 Edgewood RD NW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52405 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 60 Edgewood RD NW , Cedar Rapids, IA, 52405

Director's Name: Jennifer Peak **Phone Number:** 319-981-9107

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Peak **E-Mail:** jpeak@lasallecatholiccr.org

Date(s) of Visit: 03-06-2023

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 03-15-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General		12	50	50	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2023 to 04-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 03-17-2023

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has been a licensed program since October, 2015. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center is located inside LaSalle Catholic Elementary School and operates under a Board of Directors. The program provides 2-year-old childcare, preschool program, preschool-age childcare, and school-age childcare. Current enrollment is 72.

Combined director/on-site supervisor is Jennifer Peak. Ms. Peak has been the director/on-site supervisor of LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center since August, 2022. Ms. Peak has a has a BA degree in elementary education with an English reading endorsement. Ms. Peak has over 20 years of experience working with children and continues to participation in much child development related training.

On 3/6/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center offers a variety of early learning and childcare programming to help meet the needs of families and children in the community. The program is located in a predominantly urban area.

The year 2023 marks LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center's 8th year of providing licensed childcare and early learning services to children and their families throughout the community. Congratulations on celebrating 8 years!

The mission of the LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center is "...to provide all students with a Christ-centered education that is future oriented, grounded in educational excellence, and fosters a sense of community true to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church".

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has the following website for families: https://lasallecatholiccr.org/childcare.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has a history of participation in quality initiatives including the National School Lunch Program (2021) and QRS. The program has achieved 2 Star QRS. Ms. Peak discussed future goals related to IQ4K. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center received a Certificate of Merit for "excellent behavior on the school bus" during child transport on 8/1/2016. The program also achieved the Bronze Healthier US School Challenge Smarter Lunchroom Award on 4/28/2015.

Ownership of LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has remained consistent. Since the last review, the program obtained a new director Jennifer Peak. Ms. Peak has prior management experience. Management is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own policies and procedures. The program continues to retain some seasoned staff as well as hire a few new ones. One staff reported celebrating over 32 years with this Catholic School System fulfilling many roles including some within the licensed childcare. Another staff reported being with the program since 2004 or for 19 years. Congratulations on staff longevity! Ms. Peak discussed how "..everybody has been very welcoming of her as a new

director and willing to help any new staff out..." Ms. Peak talked about how LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has built 2 annual staff professional growth training days into their program calendar. Ms. Peak also acknowledged the positive feedback the program and staff have received from families.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County Flood, January 2019 Polar Vortex, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2019 pandemic.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has an active parent association. The program continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. Family programming activities have historically included off-site field trip experiences, a “Back to School Night”, end of the year preschool celebration, and holiday celebrations.

Building and grounds are in good repair. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center is located inside the LaSalle Catholic Elementary School which is part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center operates under a school board of directors. LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center has a strong partnership with school administration, school custodial staff, school nurse/health staff, and school kitchen personnel in order to help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is regularly inspected by the local health department. There is an AED on-site. The licensed childcare and preschool programs have regular access to the school gymnasium for large gross motor activities. The licensed childcare and preschool programs are regularly invited to school assemblies and special school programming events including on-site guest speaker events (recent Veteran's Day prayer service). LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center and LaSalle Catholic Elementary School participate in collaborative fund raising efforts.

Since the last review, a new 2yo/young preschool-age outdoor playground was established to include fencing, a new climber over cushion surfacing, basketball hoop, and shed for loose outdoor materials to be stored. Classrooms also received a refresh with updated areas of paint, new carpets/rugs, and new furnishings (e.g. tables with chairs, shelving, cabinets). Classrooms have been re-arranged and re-organized in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Supplies are more easily accessible to children. Curriculum occurs in a Christian environment and includes a combination strategies based upon Iowa Early Learning Strategies (e.g. religious education, physical activity, social-emotional components, Jolly Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears). Ms. Peak discussed how summer enrollment is underway.

LaSalle Catholic Early Childhood Center collaborates well with community agencies, CCR&R, health professionals and a variety of local businesses.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. The program has supplies as well as policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were quite nurturing and attentive to the children’s needs. Areas of study for the month include Read Across America and PJ Day. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. building supplies, crafts, imaginative play experiences, puzzles, games, books). Activities offered were many (e.g. center play, small group work, circle discussion). Routine daily transitions (e.g. clean-up events) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and offering positive redirection when needed. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their childcare experiences.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

109.6(6): Record checks
- One staff file reviewed (JP) lacked documentation of results from an Iowa/SING record check and a federal/fingerprint record check.
- One staff file reviewed (MB) lacked documentation of results from a federal/fingerprint record check.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
- One staff file reviewed (MB) lacked documentation of a physical exam report.

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
- One child file reviewed (JF) lacked documentation of an annual update.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and

dental services at any time child is in center's care.
- Two child files reviewed (KB, LY) lacked complete name, address, and phone number of doctor and dentist.
- Two child files reviewed (KB, LY) lacked current signed/dated parental authorization to treat.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
- Three child files reviewed (OH, JF, FH) reviewed lacked an annual physical exam or statement of health.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
- Documentation of a monthly fire drill and a monthly tornado drill were not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
- Documentation of a monthly outdoor playground inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
- Documentation of current radon testing results were not found on the day of the monitoring visit.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
- Documentation of a current annual fuel burning appliance inspection was not found on the day of the monitoring visit.
- A UL Standard 2034 carbon monoxide detector was not found to be in use on the day of the monitoring visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

While Ms. Peak has childcare management experience, she is new to this program and working to establish systems of organization to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. A referral to CCR&R has been made for assistance and resources to help in these processes.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.