Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Noah's Ark Pre-K

Provider No.: 30223

Address: 858 7th Ave SE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Shannon Jensen

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7125466626

E-Mail: noahsarkpreschoollemars@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/17/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/08/2024

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

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Wednesday		8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:30 AM to 3:00 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			19		19
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at Noah's Ark Preschool. I was able to speak with Shannon Jensen who is the director of the program. Ms. Jensen has an Elementary Education degree and her master's in education and early childhood. She also has 16 years of experience working with children. Noah's Ark Preschool is in one room of the Presbyterian United Church of Christ in Le Mars. The program serves children 3-5 years old. The center operates Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 11:00am for three-year-olds and 12:30pm to 3:00pm for 4- & 5-year-olds. There are 45 children enrolled in the program 16 - 3yr olds M & W; 13 - 3yr olds T & TH; and 16 - 4/5-year-olds Monday thru Thursday afternoon. There were 10 children present at the time of my visit.

All areas of the program were observed including classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

This is a non-denominational, privately operated preschool. The program's curriculum is aligned with the Iowa Early Learning Standards (IELS), which emphasize developmentally appropriate practices and support children's growth across key domains such as social-emotional development, communication, literacy, mathematics, and physical well-being. They also utilize the Heggerty Phenomics Awareness Curriculum, which is a structured, evidence-based program that focuses on developing phonemic awareness—the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. This skill is a critical precursor to reading and spelling success.

The daily schedule of activities was clearly posted and accessible. The classroom environment was visually stimulating and developmentally appropriate, with displays that included colors, shapes, the alphabet, and children's artwork. These elements contributed to a welcoming and engaging learning space.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Throughout the visit, staff were observed actively engaging with children in a variety of activities. They provided consistent verbal interaction, offered guidance, and supported children's participation in both structured and free-choice tasks. Staff led the children in physical exercises, reinforced classroom rules in a positive manner, and maintained a nurturing tone throughout.

The center maintains a clean and organized environment that supports children's health and safety. The refrigerator was observed to be clean, and nutritious snacks are provided by the center. Although the program is not enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), it follows CACFP nutritional guidelines to ensure balanced and age-appropriate meals and snacks. Proper food storage practices were observed throughout the visit.

Medication is stored securely, either in a locked container or out of children's reach, and the center adheres to appropriate procedures for administering medication. Tables are sanitized prior to meals, and both staff and children were observed practicing effective handwashing procedures.

The first aid kit is adequately stocked to address minor injuries. Monthly fire and tornado drills are documented as required. The center has completed a radon test and an annual heating system inspection. A functioning carbon monoxide detector is present, and sanitary procedures are consistently followed.

All program areas were observed to be clean, well-maintained, and conducive to a safe learning environment. The outdoor play area is adjacent to the building and enclosed with a privacy fence. It includes a cement slab for riding toys and a grassy area that allows for active play and running.

Overall, the center demonstrates strong adherence to health and safety standards, with well-established policies and procedures in place.

The center uses the SCRTS to transport for field trips. .

The goals of the center continue to be to increase enrollment and look at getting on the IQ4K program.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has a good working relationship with the children and their families. They also have staff that have been with the program 3 years or more.

Staff demonstrated positive and responsive interactions with the children, fostering a supportive and enriching early learning environment.

One of the program's greatest strengths is the strong commitment of the director and staff to ongoing professional development. Their dedication to continuing education reflects a deep investment in providing high-quality early childhood care and education

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

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

Date: 11/18/2025

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**.