Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Our Redeemer Lutheran Preschool

Provider No.: 18199

Address: 2145 John F Kennedy RD, Dubuque, IA, 52002

County: Dubuque

Director's Name: Amy Kruse

On-Site Supervisor: none

Phone Number: 5635881247

E-Mail: orlpreschool@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/10/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/18/2026

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

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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			42		42
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 9/10/26. The preschool director, Amy Kruse, was present on the day of this visit along with other staff. Amy has been the director for 18 years and taught at another preschool prior to this. She has a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education with an early childhood special education endorsement, and a Master's Degree in instructional leadership. Amy also functions as the lead teacher for the afternoon four/five year old preschool session. The preschool is owned and operated by the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. It is governed by a board including church members and parent representatives. The preschool operates out of two rooms within the church building. The preschool rooms are kept secure by locking the classroom doors. The preschool does participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center director states the preschool uses the Iowa Early Learning Standards, Second Step, Building Blocks math, Haggerty phonics, Growing Up Wild science, Teaching Strategies Gold, Read It Again literacy, and Learning Without Tears curriculums. The center reports enrollment of 37 children at the time of this visit.

The preschool uses two program rooms, a restroom area, a kitchenette area, space in the fellowship hall for indoor large motor activities, and chapel time with the pastor once per week with preschool staff present for this activity. The program rooms provide for ample space for the children and are very well stocked with age appropriate and accessible materials to support programming needs. Both rooms are nicely decorated and provide for a child friendly environment. The children's crafts and projects are also on display in the rooms and hallways. There are restroom areas for boys and girls across the hall from the three/four year old room. Children from that room have to travel across the hall to use the restroom. The program room does include a sink that is used for hand washing. Children in the four/five year old room have a restroom area with a toilet and sink adjacent to the room and another hand washing sink within the classroom. The preschool has use of the fellowship hall which is a nice space for indoor large motor activities. Required postings and child and staff files were reviewed. The licensing notebook including emergency drills, first aid supplies, playground checklist, radon testing, fuel

burning appliances inspections, and policies were reviewed. All program space was observed. Staff and child interactions, food service, and hand washing practices and procedures were observed. Health and safety practices were also reviewed including medication management, cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting procedures, excluding ill children/staff, incident reports, and first aid kits.

Nutritional practices and food safety were observed. The center does not participate in the CACFP. The preschool provides the snack and beverage for the children. Snack is prepared in the kitchenette area where the preschool uses space in a refrigerator. All dishes are washed in the dish washing machine in the church's main kitchen area.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This preschool has been in existence for over 50 years. The director of this preschool is highly qualified as outlined above. The staff were once again observed to be enthusiastic and highly interactive with the children and many positive words of encouragement could be heard throughout the preschool. The children appeared to be having a great preschool experience. The staff are highly qualified and continue to work very well together. Program rooms are bright with windows, are spacious, and are highly organized with plenty of accessible materials, are generally clean, and are very well maintained. The center has plenty of books which are arranged by topic for easy accessibility to support program curriculum. The preschool has added a new sandbox to the outdoor play area. The program offers parent/teacher conferences twice per year for the three year old program and three times per year for the four year old program. The preschool continues to participate in the local AEA program where materials to supplement the preschool can be borrowed from the AEA even though this program is no longer free of charge. The program participates in the Swiss Valley Naturalist program which includes that program visiting the preschool twice per year, Harvest of the Month program which provides a healthy snack to the preschool from a local business, and the All About Balance stem program. Dental and vision screenings are provided on site at the preschool. Very detailed newsletters and activity plans are posted and provided. Staff and child files and other required licensing documentation continue to be highly organized. The continued attention to detail and organization of every aspect of this program by the director and staff does not go unnoticed.

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

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with (director) their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.
The center director provided the following responses:
1) We have a discipline policy in place that we review yearly and we also discuss any issues that teachers may have with students during our staff meetings to help with behavior issues.
2) We talk about how they are feeling and what they can do to feel better. We discuss taking deep breaths or taking a break from the situation, reminding everyone to stay calm. I have recommended Keystone AEA come in to give suggestions on how to help with situations with students.
3) I am frequently in and out of the classrooms on a daily basis so I can check on staff to monitor these things. I also touch base with staff about students once an issue has been identified.

The preschool will continue with a full license. This report does not require a written response. Thank you.

Date: 09/22/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate

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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**.