

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

Name of Center: St Joseph Sunrise Preschool **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22861

Street: 216 N Broadway **City:** New Hampton **Iowa Zip** 50659 **County:** Chickasaw

Mailing Address: 216 N Broadway, New Hampton, IA, 50659

Director's Name: Whitnee Blume & Kim Ovel **Phone Number:** 641-394-2865

On-Site Supervisor(s): Whitnee Blume & Kim Ovel **E-Mail:** wgallaher@stjoseph-nh.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-12-2022

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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	0	0	20	23	43
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Date: 11-22-2022

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/14/22 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Joseph Sunrise Preschool and the Kid Zone before and after school-age program in New Hampton. I met with Whitnee Blume (previously Gallaher), the director and lead three-year-old preschool teacher. Ms. Blume has a BA in early childhood education. She started with the preschool in September 2021. She became the director in August 2019. I also met with Kim Ovel, the director of the Kid Zone program. She was named an on-site supervisor in October 2016 and became a director in May 2022. Ms. Ovel is the lead teacher for the before and after school/summer care program. Michele Nehls is the school principal. The program employs three preschool staff members and three childcare staff members.

Melody Kingsburg and Melissa Ashley are the assistants in the preschool room.

The program is in St. Joseph's Catholic School in New Hampton. The program previously licensed their four and five-year-old preschool program, but that is now regulated by the Department of Education. The Department of Human Services licenses the three-year-old preschool program, the preschool childcare program and the before and after school program. The three-year-old preschool program has the option to meet on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am.

The before and after school program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00-8:00 am and 3:10-5:30 pm. There are currently 70 children enrolled. The program also offers childcare during the summer months.

The preschool program operates out of two rooms. Windows provide natural lighting. The preschool room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as numbers and the children's art projects. There is an area for circle time and the classroom has a smart board. The childcare room is decorated with the children's art projects.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, transportation, art, dramatic play, woodworking, Play-Doh, Ipads, 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 were easily accessible to the children.

The childcare programs use bathrooms that are in the hallway. The boy's bathroom has two toilets, two urinals and two sinks. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. The childcare room has one sink and handwashing procedures were posted.

The preschool room share a bathroom with the four-year-old preschool class. There are three toilets and two sinks in the bathroom and handwashing procedures were posted.

I visited the childcare program and the preschool room. Rooms were within ratio.

Cots and mats are used to nap.

The programs use a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans are not developed for the before and after school program. The children mostly engage in free play because they are in a structured learning environment all day. Lesson plans were available for review.

There was a phone in the preschool classroom and the childcare room and emergency numbers were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the program doors in both rooms. A daily schedule was posted in both locations.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2022 and is good for two years. Results had not been received yet during my visit. You may want to contact them. The previous results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in both rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/12/22.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the food program guidelines. The children are released from childcare to eat breakfast through the school if they would like. The school provides a snack to the preschool children during the morning hours and an afternoon snack to the after-school children. The childcare children eat lunch through the school.

Snacks are eaten in the classrooms. Children must wash their hands or use sanitizer before sitting down to eat snack. They were given hand sanitizer after snack. The children eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. Menus were available for review in both rooms. There is a refrigerator in both rooms and thermometers were present. Disposable products are used for snacks, so dishwashing is not necessary. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables in both rooms.

The parent information is located inside the preschool classroom and inside the Kid Zone childcare room. 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.

All the children use the preschool playground. The area is fenced in. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. The climbing equipment has slides, a climbing wall, rings and other activities. There are playhouses and swings. Benches are available. There is a greenhouse in this area. There is a path for riding toys and the children enjoy taking chalk outside. Trees provide shade.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed four staff files. One file did not have Iowa background checks (SING) and two SING checks were outdated. Fingerprint results could not be located for one staff member. One staff member did not have a physical and has not completed Essentials training.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. Ms. Ovel has been with the before and after school program since it started and has a great relationship with the children and families. All the staff members were actively engaged with the children during play. They maintained positive conversation with the children and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Staff members greeted children and parents as they arrived. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. The children appeared to enjoy themselves and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Blume states she enjoys the relationships that are built with the children and between staff members.

Ms. Blume states that sticking with a schedule allows them to provide the children with consistency.

The preschool children have conferences in the spring. The preschool classroom has a smart board that makes learning interactive and fun for the children.

The preschool and before and after school childcare programs meets a need for parents. This allows children to receive care on site so that transportation is not necessary.

Staff members in both programs have terrific interaction with the children. It was obvious the children really enjoyed spending time with the staff members.

The program was originally licensed only as a preschool but has expanded to provide childcare and a summer program.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.

One staff member has been employed since February 2022 and has not completed Essentials training.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.

Number not in compliance: 4

One file did not have Iowa background checks (SING) and two SING checks were outdated. Fingerprint results could not be located for one staff member.

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.

Number not in compliance: 1

One staff member did not have a physical.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to change Whitnee Gallaher's name to Whitnee Blume. Jackie Rochford is no longer with the program.

*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.