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

Name of Center: Sacred Heart Plus **Enrollment:** 78 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 37659

Street: 1653 Grand AVE **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50265 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 1627 Grand AVE, West Des Moines, IA, 50265

Director's Name: Jessie Zeimen **Phone Number:** 515-864-8737

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Leon **E-Mail:** jessie.zeimen@sacredheartwdm.org

Date(s) of Visit: 07-22-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-03-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-14-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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	0	0	46	129	175
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-23-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing inspection was conducted on 7/22/25. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present for this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Sacred Heart Plus is a center licensed by HHS (formerly DHS). The center was given permission to open on 6/1/15. Previous to HHS licensing, the center was under the oversight of the Department of Education. This center serves children who attend Sacred Heart School and are ages three through 12 years of age. The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teaching. The center is open year-round had has a before and after school component, extended care, and a summer program in two different buildings on the Sacred Heart campus. There are a total of three classrooms. The center also has access to the indoor gym from time to time.

The center is overseen by a Board. The center director is Jessica Zeimen. Jessica has an AA degree in Business as well as some education classes. She has worked for Sacred Heart Plus for many years. Jennifer Leon is the on-site supervisor. Jennifer has her BA degree in Social Work. Jennifer has also worked for Sacred Heart Plus for a number of years.

During the visit, the school-age children were not present as they were on a field trip. Per the director, the center took children's emergency contact and a first-aid kit. Preschool children were observed outside playing on the playground and later on, washing their hands. Staff were spaced out on the playground supervising children and also overseeing handwashing.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There continues to be a good mix of new and tenured staff. The director and on-site supervisor feel that staff work well together.

The center has a good partnership with other businesses in the community as well as the school and the church.

Parent involvement is stressed and encouraged.

Once a year, for roughly one week, the center closes for a thorough professional cleaning of the center and for staff to get professional development training hours.

The center has a website through the school.

The center has a walkie-talkie system in place between staff in order to provide better communication and supervision.

The center works with CCR&R and their nurse consultant on a regular basis.

The director has monthly staff meetings with other directors who are part of the diocese as well as director meetings led by CCR&R.

There is a secure entrance into the center. There is also a security camera system in place.

A cleaning crew cleans the center classroom areas nightly. Staff are also doing extra cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting daily.

Staff and children wear center shirts on field trips so that all staff and children are more easily identifiable

The center has an outdoor garden where they are growing several different vegetables and children are learning about these vegetables.

Enrollment remains steady.

Over the past year, the center has purchased some new kitchen appliances.

There are incentive bonuses for staff for meeting and going above requirements.

Files were nicely organized.

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

No below standards were identified at this year's inspection visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 3/17/23 - 3/20/23. Both preschool classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The furnace was last inspected 3/18/25.

It was previously noted that only school-age children go on field trips off campus. The center contracts with the West Des Moines School District for busing. Younger children take walking field trips around the campus. The center will also bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles. Staff should continue to upload training. Any staff no longer employed at the center should be unlinked in I - Power. The center has had conversations with their CCR&R consultant regarding IQ4K.

The CACFP smart phone app was previously discussed at a past visit. This information should continue to be shared with parents to ensure credible foods are being sent with their children for lunches while attending the program.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.