Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Morning Star Academy

Provider No.: 21113

Address: 1426 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf, IA, 52722

County: Scott

Director's Name: Sharon Johnson

On-Site Supervisor: none

Phone Number: 5633595700

E-Mail: Sharon.Johnson@msa-qc.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/09/2026

Licensing Period: 01/01/2026 to 01/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/01/2025

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		8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
Wednesday		8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
Thursday		8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
Friday		8:00 AM to 11:00 AM	
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			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this preschool on 9/9/26. The preschool director is Sharon Johnson. Sharon is also the lead teacher for portions of the preschool program. Sharon is highly qualified with a bachelor's degree in secondary education and 25 years of experience at this program with seven of those years as center director. Sharon was present for this visit. This preschool is owned and operated by the Morning Star Academy which is a private school for children age preschool through 12th grade. The school is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International and the Association of Classical and Christian Schools. The preschool is managed by a voluntary board of directors. The school is non-profit. The preschool operates during the school year only. The program does not participate in the Iowa Voluntary Preschool Grant program. The center director states the preschool uses the Abeka curriculum. The preschool reports enrollment of 21 children at the time of the visit.

The preschool operates out of one room on the main level of the school. The preschool room continues to be adequately furnished with materials and supplies to support program activities. The preschool room includes an adjacent restroom area with one toilet and a sink. There is also a hand washing sink within the program room. The children may also use hallway restroom areas that are just outside and across the hall from the preschool room. The children are able to use the school gymnasium space for indoor large motor activities. The four year old preschool children also use the school library weekly. 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.

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Nutritional practices and food safety were observed. Food service consists of snack. Parents provide this from a menu that is predetermined and exceeds CACFP requirements in most cases. The center does not participate in the CACFP.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Sharon continues to manage the program quite well. The staff continue to work well together. The preschool setting is enhanced by being located within a private educational institution where additional resources and supports are available to staff and children. There continues to be good support for the preschool within the community. Parents are provided written progress reports four times per year for the preschool children. Staff remain consistent at the preschool. Staff were again observed to be highly engaged with the children in activities, and the children were busy with a variety of activities. The room itself is bright with windows and is decorated with children's materials. Staff and child files and other required licensing documentation continue to be highly organized. The attention to detail in the organization of this preschool program 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 talk about it in our meetings before school starts, as the year progresses, and we occasionally take a class for our ongoing professional development. We handle any behavior issues with consistency and address them as soon as they start.
2) With two staff members per class, we keep each other accountable with our tone and words. We can also hand off any problems to the other one if we feel frustration in the moment.
3) We do not have a lot of staff turnover in our preschool and with only two classes (Pre-3 & Pre-4, each with one teacher and one aide), it makes it easier. We hold each other accountable and welcome input from each other.

This 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

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**.