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

Name of Center: St Teresa of Calcutta Child Care Center **Enrollment:** 68 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19146

Street: 416 E Main St **City:** Ossian Iowa **Zip** 52161 **County:** Winneshiek

Mailing Address: 414 E Main St, Ossian, IA, 52161

Director's Name: Bailey Hughes **Phone Number:** 563-532-9250

On-Site Supervisor(s): Erika Schmitt **E-Mail:** Bhughes@st-teresa.pvt.k12.ia.us eschmitt@st-teresa.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 04-29-2025

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:** 04-15-2025

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

Date Inspected: 11-01-2024

Comments : Compliance on 11/26/24.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	15	12	51	15	93
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2025 to 06-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 06-02-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/29/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Teresa of Calcutta Child Care Center in Ossian. I met with Bailey Hughes, the director. Ms. Hughes became the director in May 2023. Ms. Hughes has a diploma in early childhood and an AA in general studies. She is currently working toward a degree in elementary and middle level education. Erika Schmitt is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Schmitt started with the program in May 2019. She was previously the director. She has an AAS in an unrelated field but has taken many hours of childcare training. Kristen Kriener is the principal at St. Teresa of Calcutta School. Debby Schmitt is the business manager. The childcare program employs eighteen staff members.

The center is in a free-standing building adjacent to the St. Teresa of Calcutta School. It operates Monday through Friday 6:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves children ages 6 weeks through twelve-years-old. There are currently 68 children enrolled. The preschool program located in the school is also under the license. The preschool serves three and four-year-old children Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. The four-year-old preschool class was previously licensed under HHS but is now regulated by the Department of Education.

The program operates out of four rooms inside the childcare center: the infant room, the toddler room (one-year-old), the two-year-old room and a small, partitioned area for school-age children. Also under the license is one preschool room located in St. Teresa of Calcutta School. The school-age children also use the room in the school for childcare during the summer. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the preschool room and two-year-old room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, Play-Doh, writing, math, sensory table 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.

During the summer the school-aged children use the school gym as program space also.

The uses a childcare center uses a variety of resources to prepare lesson plans. Activities are planned around monthly themes. Lesson plans were available for review in all the rooms.

Maranda Ruroden is the lead teacher for the three-year-old preschool classroom. She has her Para 1, Para 2 and Substitute certificates. She is working toward her CDA through the TEACH program. She uses Planbook to develop lesson plans. She uses Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and Making Reading Heavenly (in place of Jolly Phonics). Ms. Ruroden completes assessments four times each year and has conferences twice each year. There is an Epson smart projector in the classroom.

There was a phone in each room with postings of emergency phone numbers and the program's address and phone number. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits. You must post the evacuation diagram near both exits in the two-year-old classroom. A daily schedule was

posted in each room.

Cribs are used to nap in the infant room. Cots ae available in the infant room as the children turn one year old. The other classrooms use cots.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in May 2024 and is good for two years because a radon mitigation system was installed in the childcare center. The results were within the EPA recommended guidelines.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the two-year-old room in the daycare on one of the pillars and near the sink in the four-year-old preschool room in the school. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/01/24 with compliance on 11/26/24.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Breakfast and lunch are provided by St. Teresa of Calcutta School and brought over to the center. New menus are prepared by the school cook, including during the summer months. Menus and allergies were posted. Snack is provided by the school or through donations in the childcare center. In the preschool room, the parents pay a snack fee and Ms. Ruroden purchases the snack. There were snack menus for the childcare and preschool program.

The childcare children eat everything in their classrooms. The preschool classroom eats breakfast and lunch in the school cafeteria and they eat snack in the classroom.

There is a refrigerator in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Dishes are washed using a dishwasher and there are three sinks to use the three-step method when necessary. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

In the infant room, the parents provide everything until the children start table food. Bottles are washed and sanitized in the infant room using the three step method. There is a refrigerator in the infant room and thermometers were present.

The Brightwheel app is being used in each room in the childcare center. Daily sheets are completed on the Brightwheel app for children under the age of two. Staff members must document the children's mood every day for children under the age of two. In the preschool classroom they use the See Saw app to communicate with parents because this is what the school uses.

The center uses Sani-Tyze to sanitize the food tables. Oxivir Tb is used to disinfect the changing tables.

I observed or discussed diaper changes with the staff members and proper procedures are being followed. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks and diaper changing procedures were posted near all the changing tables.

The parent board is located near the primary entrance which is in the rear of the childcare center and in the entrance of the preschool classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted in both locations. The license must be hung in this area. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has two playground areas. The area for preschool and school-aged children is behind St. Teresa of Calcutta School. The school also uses the playground. The preschool playground is fenced in. This is a smaller area that has climbing equipment with slides, a bridge, tunnel and climbing wall. There are also monkey bars.

There is a larger partially fenced in area for the school-aged children. There are two pieces of climbing equipment. One has a slide and tunnel. The other is set up like an obstacle course with rings, slides, steppingstones, and a climbing wall. There are swings, spinning toys, monkey bars, and rocking toys. There is a shade shelter with picnic tables.

The playground for the younger children is on the south side of the childcare center. There is a fence around the playground. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing. There is a small piece of climbing equipment with slides and other activities. There is also a grassy area with a sandbox and playhouse. There is a caterpillar tunnel, dramatic play center, and an activity center with a shade top. There is a picnic table and bench for the children to rest. The building provides shade.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed twelve children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide any dentist emergency contact information. This will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

I reviewed four staff files. The fingerprint results for one staff member could not be located.

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 actively engaged with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and introduced them to activities. They were flexible with the schedule to meet the needs of the children. I observed staff members remove toys the children put in their mouths. Staff members talked with the children about sharing and taking turns. Staff members were nurturing. They held children on their laps and gave them hugs. Staff members assisted the children with handwashing. Staff members were good at multi-tasking. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has a terrific summer program for children. They keep the children active and they walk the children to local playgrounds and parks in town. The center plans a field trip every Tuesday during the summer months to local parks, businesses and attractions in the area. Children ages eighteen months and older participate in field trips if it is age appropriate. The center contracts with NEICAC Transit for transportation. They have buses equipped with five-point harnesses for the smaller children.

The center takes the children swimming every Friday during the summer, weather permitting. They go to the Calmar pool. They use the NEICAC Transit for transportation. They also arrange swimming lessons for the older children before the pool opens on Friday.

The location of the center is next to St. Teresa of Calcutta School so they can walk the children to and from school.

The center can use the school cafeteria, gym and playground.

The center is a bus stop for South Winneshiek School, which helps with school-age enrollment.

The center uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and for signing in and out of the center.

The center is hiring quality, caring and nurturing staff members. The first priority is always the children.

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 03/31/27.

The center has organized easy to read staff and children files and an organized licensing binder.

The center remodeled their kitchen.

The center prepares a monthly newsletter for parents.

The center uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and for billing.

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

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: 1
Fingerprint results for one staff member could not be located.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

*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.