Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Francis Of Assisi Preschool

Provider No.: 28415

Address: 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Wendy Henry

On-Site Supervisor: Jessica Riemenschneider

Phone Number: 5152234577

E-Mail: whenry@saintfrancisschool.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/03/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2024 to 10/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/25/2025

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing, fire marshal inspections are due at least every three years. The city of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	10	71	0	81
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/3/25. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this visit.

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.

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool is located in the Parish Education Center of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in West Des Moines. The preschool is owned by the church and a Board oversees the operation of the program. Children served are two (almost three) to five years in age. Wendy Henry is the director of the program. Wendy has a BA degree and also has past experience working in child care, which includes as a director at a few other programs in the past. The on-site supervisor is Jessica Riemenschneider. Jessica has a diploma in child care as well as past experience working in child care.

The preschool uses a faith-based curriculum as well as some aspects of the High Scope Curriculum in their learning activities with children. The center also incorporates the Creative Learning Gold Curriculum, STEM, Leader in Me, and Really Great Reading curriculums. Children are expected to be toilet trained for the most part before they can be enrolled at the preschool.

Children attend either AM or PM classes (8:30am - 11:15am or 12:15pm - 3:00pm) Monday through Thursday during the school year. There are no summer classes. Class times vary and there are several options parents can choose from. There are three classrooms total and two of these classrooms are used together as one. Two classes could be going on at the same time in different rooms. There are also two wrap-around classrooms when preschool is not in session. These classes meet year-round 7:00am - 5:30pm.

During the visit, children were observed washing their hands before sitting down to eat the PM snack in one of the classrooms. In the other classroom, children were observed engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were assisting children with hand washing and also spaced out in the rooms interacting with children.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There is a secure entrance into the program.

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The program has a website through the church. Email updates, newsletters, calendars, suggested learning opportunities for children to practice at home, announcements, etc. are sent weekly to parents. Pro-Care is also used to communicate with parents.

The program has a good working relationship with all church and school personnel.

The program continues to use Al's Pals and other puppets to promote good social skills for children.

Monthly staff meetings are held so communication again is stressed between staff. There is a mix of tenured and newer staff.

The center has good community partnerships.

There is at least one teacher associate present throughout class times. There are also support reserve teachers and interventionalists if needed for children.

The center adopts ALICE principles There is a review of safety that is regularly visited throughout the year.

Enrollment remains steady.

The director and the on-site supervisor both stated they have a good relationship with each other and work well together. They meet weekly for formal meetings.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
1. It was too dark during nap time in one of the two wrap-around classrooms.
2. There was a dangling cord in the large preschool room and a dangling cord in one of the wrap around classrooms that were not securely attached to the walls. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed in classrooms 8/21/23 - 8/23/23. 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 boiler inspections were last completed on 5/31/25.

It was previously noted that the center does not transport and they do not go on field trips other than walking around the church/school campus. The center may at times bring in agencies for presentations to the children.

The school provides the meals for children this year. All items met the CACFP.

I - Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I - Power profiles created and be uploading

training certificates if I - Power doesn't automatically upload them.

Date: 09/04/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nathan Knepper

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**.