Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Plymouth Nursery School

Provider No.: 28375

Address: 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312

County: Polk

Director's Name: Emily Rademacher

On-Site Supervisor: Nancy Landis

Phone Number: 5152553271

E-Mail: jvanwyk@plymouthchurch.com
erademacher@plymouthchurch.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/24/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/07/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years, completed by Des Moines Fire Dept (FF Eric Jacobson)

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:00 AM to 2:45 PM	
Tuesday		9:00 AM to 2:45 PM	
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 2:45 PM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 2:45 PM	
Friday		9:00 AM to 12:15 PM	
Saturday			

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			100		100
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was completed 11-24-25. Emily Rademacher, director was present for the entire visit.

Plymouth Nursery School has been in operation since 1954. This program is one of the longest running preschools in Iowa. The preschool is located within the Plymouth Congregational Church. There are five classrooms and the center also has an outdoor playground and use of the church's gym. Children ranging from three through five years of age are served in the preschool. There is a play group that serves two year old children. Emily Rademacher assumed the role of on-site supervisor July, 2023 and now director. She has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Reading. She has prior experience with teaching pre-k through 2nd gr. Nancy Landis is on-site supervisor; and has been working in the program for many years. Both meet the criteria for their positions.

Plymouth Nursery School has evolved over the years to best serve their family's needs. The program offers playtime for two year old children as well as a playtime plus class for children who are 2 1/2 years old. The program offers a three year old program, a prekindergarten program, a pre-k plus program and a pre-k extension program.

This preschool is a school year only program, operating from September through May.

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

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum by philosophy and uses the Iowa Learning Standards for other aspects of

programming. The classrooms had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. The staff were in ratio and maintained good structure with nurturing responses and children that were content. The rooms were nicely organized and themes fit for the seasons.

The center primarily uses email to communicate with parents; and crafts newsletters for families. There are monthly staff meetings and parents can volunteer in the classrooms.

The playground is located in the center atrium-type area of the building. There are play structures and shade structures on the play equipment. The playground was partially covered with snow during this visit.

Transportation: The center does not provide transportation, they may use a city bus or walk in the neighborhood for outings.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The preschool benefits a great deal from her experience and expertise.

The classrooms are well equipped with age appropriate supplies and furnishings.

The preschool focuses on emotional, social, physical and educational development and is committed to learning through play.

The preschool is family based and family involved. The level of parent involvement is strong, as well as extended family support for the children who attend.

Many of the staff have a degree and all of the staff have some college credits.

The preschool is a long running program and has a solid reputation in the community; they are enrolling 4th generation children.

The preschool receives positive feedback from the schools that the children are ready for kindergarten.

The preschool receives positive feedback from parents on their annual survey.

The preschool has worked jointly with the church on security measures and taking steps to make the preschool more secure.

The preschool has a strong relationship with the church.

Enrollment is strong.

The parents are engaged and there is a sense of community within the program.

The program has a strong board of directors.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

A new form for playground checks was provided; the center routinely observes to ensure the safety of the outdoor area for the children daily.

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

A new playground safety check was provided and the director indicated it will be utilized.

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The last radon testing was completed 2/2025 All rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

A full two year license is recommended.

Date: 12/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.