Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St. Timothy Preschool and Child Care

Provider No.: 22896

Address: 1 Thelma ST, Hudson, IA, 50643

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Clara Nehmer

On-Site Supervisor: Clara Nehmer

Phone Number: 3199883633

E-Mail: preschool@sttimothyhudson.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/16/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2024 to 12/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 12/03/2024

Comments: Compliance on 12/31/24

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	10	10	25	30	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 10/16/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. Timothy Lutheran Preschool and Child Care in Hudson. I met with Clara Nehmer, the director of the program. Ms. Nehmer has been with the program since September 2015, and she has a BA in an unrelated field. I also met with Abby Johanningmeier, the assistant director. She started with the program in August 2025 and had worked at a previous childcare center as an on-site supervisor for fourteen years. The program employs seventeen staff members.

The program is in St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Hudson. Children can attend preschool three or five days each week. The preschool operates from 8:00-11:00 am. The preschool serves children aged three through five-years-old. Cindy Haas is the four- and five-year-old preschool teacher for the program. She started with the program in July 2019. Ms. Haas has a BA in early childhood education. Allison "Allie" Lyon is the lead teacher of the three-year-old preschool class.

The childcare program is from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves children ages eighteen months old through ten-years-old. The childcare program operates all year around and on days when there is no school. There are currently 113 children enrolled.

The program utilizes five rooms: a room for children 18 months old until two-years-old, a transition room for children approximately two years old, a three-year-old room, a four and five-year-old room and a school age room (the fellowship hall). The fellowship hall is also used as the dining room.

An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in one of the rooms and artificial lighting is used in the other rooms. 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 rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art/crafts, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, Play-Doh, magnets, woodworking, puppets and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

There is a bathroom with one toilet, one sink, and a diaper changing table off the toddler room. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There is a sink located in the room for children eighteen months through two-years-old. There is also a changing table in this room. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. There are two bathrooms located across from the Fellowship Hall. The girl's and boy's bathrooms each have two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted.

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Staff members use a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review. The program is faith based and include Christian activities in their day. The pastor typically meets with the preschool children monthly for chapel during the school year. Ms. Haas has created her own assessment tool for the children that measures phonological awareness, number concepts, science, word works and essential standards. Ms. Haas states their program is very individualized for the children and based on where the children are developmentally. Ms. Lyon also uses Ms. Haas's assessment tool in her class. They have conferences once each year.

A daily schedule is posted in the entrance and so is the menu.

The ProCare app is used to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two years old. All rooms use the app to communicate with parents and to send pictures of the children throughout the day.

There is a phone in the rooms and emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted near the phones. Staff members also communicate with two-way radios. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Fire and tornado drills must be practiced in the morning and afternoon.

The playground inspections were reviewed. There was not an inspection completed in March, April and May, June or November 2024. There were no inspections for February, May, July or August 2025. The playground inspections must occur every month. This was also cited last year.

The radon test was completed in September 2024 and is only good for two years because the program had a radon mitigation installed in the fall of 2020. Results were within EPA guidelines.

The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. Carbon monoxide detectors are on site and are installed on the ceilings as part of the fire alarm system. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/03/24, with compliance on 12/31/24.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). You must follow the food program's guidelines. The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The program uses a four week rotation of menus. Jody Heaverlo is the food service manager/cook. Family style is not used. On the day of my visit the children were only served one component for snack. Three components must be served for breakfast. Five components must be served for lunch. Two components must be served for snacks. Parents have the option to bring their own lunch and snacks. You must monitor what is brought in and be able to supplement any components that are missing.

The children eat all snacks and meals in the Fellowship Hall. There is an industrial freezer and refrigerator in the kitchen. There is also a small refrigerator. There were thermometers present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There are four sinks to clean dishes and an industrial dishwasher to clean and sanitize all dishes. There is one hand washing sink in the kitchen and procedures were posted.

The center uses Member's Mark Commercial Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing table.

Cots are used to nap in each room. There are mats available to nap for the children who attend on no preschool days at the public school. Do not allow the bedding of one child to touch the bedding of another child when the cots are stored.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program received grants to develop a playground behind the center. The area is partially fenced in. There is a concrete riding path. While the playground is one large space, there is an area for infants/toddlers and an area for children aged two through school aged. Turf is used for fall surface cushioning in both areas. There also are areas where pea gravel is used and where there are woodchips. There is a small piece of climbing equipment with a ramp for the younger children and a larger piece of equipment with slides, a climbing wall and other activities. There are tire swings in the area for the younger

children and bigger swings in another area. There are several activities in the playground area. There are steppingstones, wood blocks and tree stumps for the children to walk on and a playhouse. There is a sandbox and an area with a basketball hoop and a Funhoop. There are picnic tables for the children to rest. Trees have been planted for shade and there are two shade structures. There is an old corn crib that has been re-modeled for storage. They added a sidewalk down to the playground this year.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The leadership of the program is committed to providing a safe environment for the children. Staff members had great interaction with the children. They provided attention to each child. They were patient with children and flexible with their schedules. Staff members acknowledged the feelings of children. They had the children involved in fun and creative learning activities that encouraged imagination. There was good teamwork and communication between staff members. Ms. Haas breaks the children into small groups to work on lessons involving shapes, counting and colors. They practice sight words. Staff members entertained children during transitions. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. They assisted with handwashing. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

Ms. Haas has been a teacher for 35 yeas and her experience is beneficial not only for the educational aspect, but also for dealing with behaviors.

Ms. Nehmer states they received the Continuum of Care Grant through the state to provide childcare to voluntary four year old preschool children.

The center is a bus stop for school-age children and the voluntary four-year-old preschool children who attend preschool at the public school.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Nehmer states the program completes evaluations on each of the children that include not only an educational aspect, but also a social/emotional aspect.

Ms. Nehmer states the staff members are their strength. She states they have been blessed and the staff members are amazing.

Ms. Johanningmeier states Ms. Nehmer is an amazing director and the program's strength.

Ms. Nehmer states they have good church support. During the school year the preschool classes attend monthly chapel. They also read Bible studies in the transition room.

Ms. Nehme states they have a great group of volunteers. The Hawkeye Community College athletic students have volunteered at the program.

Ms. Nehmer states they have a good summer program for school-aged children. They visit various parks, Hanson's Dairy and the library. The four and five-year-old children would walk to the park for the splash pad and they go to the library. The youngest children take walks with strollers.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
You must conduct monthly playground inspections.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

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Children were only served one component for snack the day of my visit.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

I met with Ms. Nehmer and Ms. Johanningmeier following my observations in the classroom. We discussed areas that need to be improved. The program does not conduct monthly playground inspections. I explained the importance of doing inspections every month and having the documentation available for review.

The fire and tornado drills must be practiced in the morning and afternoon.

I talked with Ms. Nehmer about only one component being served for snack. Even though the program is not on CACFP they must follow the guidelines. The CACFP guidelines mandate two components to be served for snacks.

Date: 11/03/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.