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

Name of Center: Notre Dame Catholic School Playgroup **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38077

Street: 221 2nd Ave E **City:** Cresco Iowa **Zip** 52136 **County:** Howard

Mailing Address: 221 2nd Ave E, Cresco, IA, 52136

Director's Name: Katie Schmitt **Phone Number:** 563-547-4513

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachel Beran **E-Mail:** kschmitt@nd.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2023

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 04-05-2022

Comments : Compliance on 04/21/22

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	12	0	12
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-16-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-26-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/25/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Notre Dame Catholic School-Playgroup in Cresco. I met with Rachel Beran, the on-site supervisor and lead teacher for the Playgroup. She was previously employed by Notre Dame for three years as a paraeducator. She started back with Notre Dame as the lead teacher for this program in August 2023. Ella Sopha is the teacher associate in the Playgroup classroom. She started in the classroom in August 2023. I also met with Katie Schmitt, the director of the Playgroup class and principal of Notre Dame Catholic School.

The Playgroup operates out of Notre Dame Catholic School. The Playgroup was previously licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. It closed in March 2020 due to Covid 19 and closed their license in October 2021 because they did not have a teacher for the program. They decided to re-open the program and were given Permission to Open Without a License on 09/06/22.

The Playgroup serves children who are three and four-years-old. The preschool offers a class on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:30 am. There are currently 20 children enrolled.

The program operates out of one classroom. Artificial lighting is used. The room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

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

There was a phone in the classroom and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were posted by the main program door. A daily schedule was posted. An activity calendar was available for review. A lesson plan was not present. A lesson plan requires more information, such as music, crafts, learning activities, etc.

Ms. Bean is using a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. An assessment is performed at the beginning of the school year. Another will be performed toward the end of the year. Parent-teacher conferences will be offered in the spring. The program follows Quality Preschool Program Standards and Iowa Early Learning Standards.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The program has not completed a fire or tornado drill this year. A fire and a tornado drill need to be practiced once each month for both classes. They should be practiced on separate dates. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. There was no documentation of playground inspections for February through May 2023. Ms. Bean was not the teacher during this time.

A radon test was completed in October 2022. Radon tests should be completed every two years. Results were above

recommended EPA guidelines. There were two kits placed in the room and the results were 6.8 pCi/L and 6.7 pCi/L. Results should be under 4.0 pCi/L. Ms. Schmitt had said she ordered radon kits to perform another short-term radon test that was going to be completed following my last visit, but this did not occur. This should be completed as soon as possible. If the results remain high, they must do a long-term test.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is in the classroom on the west wall. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred 04/05/22 with compliance on 04/21/22. Fire inspections must occur every three years.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables. I observed the teacher prepare the tables for snack and proper procedures were followed.

There is one sink in the room and procedures were posted. The children use two bathrooms down the hall from the classroom. The girl's bathroom has five toilets and three sinks and the boy's bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. While I was present a child was sent to the bathroom unsupervised. This cannot occur. You must maintain visual supervision of the children into and out of the bathroom.

The Playgroup is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines as mandated. The school provides the snack for the children. The parents pay a $14 fee for snacks each semester. The school sends home a list of snacks that will be provided to the children. The children eat snack in the classroom. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not required. A snack calendar was available for review. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The program has a fenced in grassy area that they share with the four-year-old preschool program. The area has one piece of climbing equipment with slides. There is also a stationary bouncy car for the children. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. There is a tree to provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board outside the classroom. 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.

Staff members had great teamwork with each other. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. They introduced activities. They spoke with the children about being good friends and sharing. Staff members maintained positive conversation. While reading a book, Ms. Bean included the children by asking them about the colors. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Schmitt states the teachers are great.

Ms. Schmitt states they all completed the mandated paperwork and trainings prior to school starting.

Ms. Schmitt states they have good enrollment numbers.

The program can use the school gym and the library.

Ms. Bean makes a newsletter every week for the parents.

The program is in a secured building and cameras in the hallways.

The children can ride the transit to and from the preschool program.

Keystone AEA is a resource for the preschool program.

The Playgroup provides conferences to the parents once each year in the spring.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall

provide careful supervision.
While I was present a child was sent to the bathroom unsupervised. This cannot occur. You must maintain visual supervision of the children into and out of the bathroom.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
There was no documentation of playground inspections for February through May 2023. Ms. Bean was not the teacher during this time.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
A radon test was completed in October 2022. Radon tests should be completed every two years. Results were above recommended EPA guidelines. There were two kits placed in the room and the results were 6.8 pCi/L and 6.7 pCi/L. Results should be under 4.0 pCi/L. Ms. Schmitt had said she ordered radon kits to perform another short-term radon test that was going to be completed following my last visit, but this did not occur. This should be completed as soon as possible. If the results remain high, they must do a long-term test.

V. 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.

*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.