Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St. Joseph Childcare Center

Provider No.: 19206

Address: 321 Mary St, Earlville, IA, 52041

County: Delaware

Director's Name: Morgan Funke

On-Site Supervisor: Morgan Funke

Phone Number: 5639232068

E-Mail: stjosephsdc@windstream.net

HHS Visit Date: 06/16/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/21/2024

Comments:

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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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	17	10	18	8	53
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

St. Joseph Childcare Center has been in operation for many years. The St. Joseph Childcare Center is located in a building adjacent to the St. Joseph Catholic Church. This program operates year-round M-F from 6:00am to 6:00pm and serves children age infant through school-age. Total enrolled children were reported to be 39 on 6/16/2026.

The combined director and on-site supervisor (OSS) of St. Joseph Childcare Center is Morgan Funke. Ms. Funke has been in this role since June 2023. Ms. Funke has a BA degree in Leisure, Youth and Human Services, has experience working with children, and participates in professional development.

On 6/16/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in age-defined rooms. The program has access to sufficient restrooms with handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. The program has access outdoor play space. The program has an on-site kitchen with areas to prepare and store foods. The program has the ability to prepare foods or contract with a local school district. The areas of study during summer 2026 include camping, "Daddy and Me", summer sports, Rodeo Days and 4th of July celebration. On 6/16/2026, activities observed included infant cares, center play experiences, and outdoor play. Outdoor play included bike riding, ring toss challenge, Velcro-catch and bouncy balls. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions were observed to go smoothly and included clean-up procedures and restroom/drink breaks. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as build cognitive skills, strengthen emotional intelligence, enhance physical coordination, and encourage the use of social graces. On 6/16/2026, staff were observed utilizing positive behavior interventions when needed and engaged in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be truly enjoying the day.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of St. Joseph Childcare Center is to "...cultivate the full potential of each individual through the pursuit of academic, spiritual, and personal excellence. In union with our families, the Church, and the greater community, we strive to lead and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ in this world to live as saints for eternity..."

St. Joseph Childcare Center sponsors a social mediate page and has the following website: https://spiresoffaith.com/schools/st-joseph-childcare-center.

As of 6/16/2026, St. Joseph Childcare Center continues to operate under the Archdiocese of Dubuque and be overseen by a board of directors. The program's management team (e.g. board, Ms. Funke) is invested in the community and continues to have a system of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained in a secure manner. The management team remains knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Staff throughout the center are seasoned and reported celebrating 10 years, 8 years and 4 years of employment with St. Joseph Childcare Center.

On 6/16/2026, St. Joseph was found to be maintaining most required postings, maintaining a family-staff-program information area, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. St. Joseph Childcare Center provides a curriculum that incorporates Jesus, teacher-inspired ideas, on-site guest speakers, off-site field trips (e.g. walking), picnics, library/literacy events, cooking enrichment and water/sensory play. Curriculum also promotes kindergarten readiness through phonics, writing, counting experiences, and reading. During summer 2026, the childcare partnered with the local public swimming pool to help children wishing to participate in swim lessons get to and from these.

As of 6/16/2026, St. Joseph Childcare Center continue to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On the day of this monitoring visit, staff discussed how they help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following their current policies and procedures as well as maintaining checklists for cleaning and maintenance. Management and staff continue to report having supports from their board, church administration, and church custodial-maintenance persons as to daily building and grounds conditions and repairs.

St. Joseph Childcare Center has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The childcare has successfully navigated through historic local flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025, 2026), technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and 2026 nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

Not applicable.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please review rule 109.11(3)a(3) regarding sufficient heating and cooling. The temperature in the yellow room continues to be problematic with children indicating it's "hot" and visibly perspiring. Install at least two wall mounted oscillating fans or obtain and install a separate air conditioning unit for that classroom (inaccessible to the children). Children shall not be voicing the room is "hot" and that they are uncomfortable.

Please obtain outdoor heavy duty or composite child picnic tables for rest during play, outdoor learning, and picnic snacks.

Increase crafting supplies and sensory materials throughout the center.

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To improve sanitation efforts, obtain and install a commercial grade dishwasher in the kitchen and infant room.

Continue to ensure all postings are updated (e.g. lesson plans, daily schedules, menus, illness postings).

To help with the items outlined in this report, please apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund (https://www.iowaccrr.org/child care-providers/iowa-child-care-funding-opportunities/) designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with Ms. Funke oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Ms. Funke acknowledged how regular staff meetings are held to review redirection and discipline policies, and how staff have opportunities for professional development regarding child behaviors and PBIS. Ms. Funke discussed how she is present in the center talking with and listening to staff. Ms. Funke talked about how staff have access to the building's intercom system to ask for help when needed. Ms. Funke also discussed scheduling extra staff whenever possible, ensuring staff have breaks, establishing child behavior plans, communicating with families, completing incident reports, and exercising required polices for enrollment and discharge of children as needed.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 08/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.