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

Name of Center: St John School **Enrollment:** 52 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19198

Street: 314 3rd St NE **City:** Independence Iowa **Zip** 50644 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: 314 3rd St NE, Independence, IA, 50644

Director's Name: Jim Gieryng **Phone Number:** 319-334-7173

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jim Gieryng **E-Mail:** gieryngj@sjs.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 04-25-2023

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: 05-11-2020

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			23	25	48
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2022 to 05-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 04-25-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 04/25/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. John School in Independence. I briefly met with Jim Gieryng, the principal of the school and the current director. The program is working toward having Kenedy Armell be the new director in the future. She is currently working with CCR&R. Ms. Armell started with the program in November 2022. Alicyn Kane is in training to be the on-site supervisor. She started in November 2022 and is preset with the children in the afternoons. Linda Hosch is the lead teacher of the three-year-old preschool. Rita Williamson is the former director and Ms. Hosch's assistant. Ms. Williamson has a BA in elementary education and started back with the program in January 2020. She was an on-site supervisor for the program during the 2017-2018 school year. She also has previous experience as an in-home childcare provider. The program employs ten staff members and three subs.

The program is in St. John Catholic School. The three-year-old preschool class meets Monday through Thursday from 8:00 -11:00 am. The program also offers a childcare program that operates from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm. The childcare program cares for three-year-old through school-aged children. There are currently 52 children enrolled. The four-year-old preschool program became exempt from DHS licensing in February 2019. It is part of the voluntary statewide preschool program and is regulated under the Department of Education.

The program operates out of two classrooms. An inspection of each room was completed. Artificial lighting is used. The rooms are decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time in the preschool room.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Legos/blocks, table toys, listening, games, puzzles, transportation, art, sensory table, dramatic play, writing, math, science, puppets, Play-Doh, and music. 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 is a bathroom in the preschool room that has four toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were not posted. Ms. Hosch states they fell, and she will get them posted again. There are two sinks in the childcare room and handwashing procedures were posted. Cots are used to nap.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans are developed around weekly themes. A lesson plan was available for review. There is smart board in the room to help with educational activities. The childcare room had a binder of daily activities for the week.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in both rooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in the rooms. A daily schedule was posted in both rooms.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in April 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the boiler room. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 05/11/20, with compliance on 05/20/20. You are due for your fire marshal inspection in May 2023.

The children are released from childcare to eat breakfast. They eat in the cafeteria, but the parents must purchase it. The preschool program has a morning snack that is provided by parents. The school provides the childcare children with a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. The children in childcare have a choice of purchasing lunch through the school or bringing a cold lunch. Both snacks and lunch are eaten in the childcare room. Lunch trays are returned to the cafeteria to be washed. The preschool is documenting the morning snack. Lunch and snack menus were posted for the childcare program. If the school-age latchkey children want a snack they bring it from home.

The center uses Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfecting Cleaner to sanitize the food tables. They wash the tables with soap and water first and follow the sanitizer with a portable water rinse. There is a refrigerator in each room and thermometers were present. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The parent information is posted in each room. 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 and terrific interaction with the children. In the childcare room there is a small group, so the children can receive one on one attention. Ms. Armell gave great reminders for handwashing. She provided the children with praise and offered them choices. In the preschool room, Ms. Hosch and Ms. Williamson have a very busy group of children. They were patient and flexible. They interacted with the children at their level and held children on their laps. Each child was included in circle time. Positive redirection was used when necessary. Staff members provided praise to the children and provided them with fun learning activities. The children appeared to be comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 3 that expires on 03/31/24.

The program incorporates Christian teachings and prayers into their day.

The program has a website for families and the community. The three-year-old preschool program has a private social media page for enrolled families.

St. John school operates under an active board of directors and is part of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Ms. Hosch states she and Ms. Williamson work well together. She states they added more science projects last year. At times they do science experiments.

Ms. Hosch states they change the activities in the centers based upon the themes. They try to work with the childcare program to coordinate together for themes, ideas, and crafts.

The preschool program has seventh grade friends visit every other Wednesday. They typically do organized games are crafts with the preschool children.

The programs can use the playground and the gym for large motor activities.

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

N/A

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.