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

Name of Center: Plymouth Nursery School **Enrollment:** 133 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28375

Street: 4126 Ingersoll Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50312 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Jan Van Wyk **Phone Number:** 515-255-3271

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** jvanwyk@plymouthchurch.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-13-2022

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-17-2021

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

Date Inspected: 03-22-2022

Comments :

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.) X 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			100		100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-14-2022

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 12/13/22. The Director was present throughout the visit.

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.

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. Jan VanWyk has served as director since 2005. Jan began her employment at Plymouth Nursery School in 2002 as a teacher. Jan has previous director experience. She has a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education.

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.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum by philosophy and uses the Iowa Learning Standards.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The center continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19. The program has staggered their hours to help manage and mitigate Covid concerns. They have added extra space to spread out during meal times. The program changed their arrival process to help with not having too many parents in one space during arrival and pick up. The preschool eliminated the afternoon three year old class due to low enrollment during the pandemic. The program is just starting to bring back parent helpers in the classroom and they are re-evaluating this.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Jan has served as director of this center for many years. 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.

The preschool has long term, committed staff. Many of the staff have been with the preschool for over five years, with one being there for 18 years, two for 16 years, one for 12 years and one for almost 11 years.

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.

The staff have been resilient and dedicated during the pandemic.

The program is fully staffed.

The program is slowly adding back field trips and presentations, after not being able to do these at the beginning of the pandemic.

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.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon testing was completed in November of 2022. All rooms tested fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

*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.