Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Francis Of Assisi Preschool

Provider No.: 28415

Address: 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

County: Polk

Director's Name: Wendy Henry

On-Site Supervisor: Jessica Riemenschneider

Phone Number: 5152234577

E-Mail: whenry@saintfrancisschool.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/03/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/02/2026

Comments: West Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing, fire marshal inspections are due at least every three years. The city of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Tuesday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Wednesday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Thursday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Friday		7:00 AM to 5:30 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	10	71	0	81
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 9/3/26. The director and on-site supervisor were both present for this inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool is located in the Parish Education Center of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in West Des Moines. The preschool is owned by the church and a Board oversees the operation of the program. Wendy Henry is the director of the program. Wendy has a BA degree and also has past experience working in child care, which includes as a director at a few other programs in the past. The on-site supervisor is Jessica Riemenschneider. Jessica has a diploma in child care as well as past experience working in child care.

The preschool uses a faith-based curriculum as well as some aspects of the High Scope Curriculum in their learning activities with children. The center also incorporates the Creative Learning Gold Curriculum, STEM, Leader in Me, and Really Great Reading curriculums. Children are expected to be toilet trained for the most part before they can be enrolled at the preschool.

Children served are two (almost three) to five years in age. Children attend either AM or PM classes (8:30am - 11:15am or 12:15pm - 3:00pm) Monday through Thursday during the school year. There are no summer classes. Class times vary and there are several options parents can choose from. There are three classrooms total and two of these classrooms are used together as one. Two classes could be going on at the same time in different rooms. There are also two wrap-around

classrooms. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 75 children.

NUTRITION: The center serves either an AM snack to children or a PM snack to children based on when children attend. Food is provided by the school. The meal is the same for each class. Menus are posted for the week and all food items met CACFP requirements. Children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not transport and they do not go on field trips other than walking around the church/school campus. The center may at times bring in agencies for presentations to the children.

PLAYGROUND: The playground area for the center is used strictly by the preschool. It is entirely fenced in. Trees and the building itself provide shade. There is a climbing structure and rubber mulch is used for surfacing around this structure. No issues were noted with the playground. Monthly playground inspections are being documented.

During the inspection, two classes were in session. In one classroom, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Some children were observed doing puzzles. Some children were engaged in dramatic play and pretending to cook for each other and the staff member in this area. Staff were spaced out and engaging children. In the younger classroom, children had just started to clean up their areas from free-choice play. Staff were assisting children with telling children were items went. Toys, tables, and other equipment in classrooms are being cleaned and sanitized daily.

For more difficult child behaviors, the center stresses teamwork with each other as well as communication. The teamwork and communication includes children ,staff, and parents working together for positive outcomes.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

There is a secure entrance into the program.

The program has a website through the church. Email updates, newsletters, calendars, suggested learning opportunities for children to practice at home, announcements, etc. are sent weekly to parents. Pro-Care is also used to communicate with parents.

The program has a good working relationship with all church and school personnel.

The program continues to use Al's Pals and other puppets to promote good social skills for children.

Monthly staff meetings are held so communication again is stressed between staff. There are mostly tenured staff who work at this program.

Staff reportedly work well with each other.

The center has good community partnerships.

There is at least one teacher associate present throughout class times. There are also support reserve teachers and interventionalists if needed for children.

The center adopts ALICE principles There is a review of safety that is regularly visited throughout the year.

Enrollment remains steady.

The director and the on-site supervisor both stated they have a good relationship with each other and work well together. They meet weekly for formal meetings.

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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
In the younger classroom, there were cleaning products in a lower unlocked cabinet. These cleaners need to be moved and/or a child lock needs to be put on this cabinet.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last completed in classrooms 8/21/23 - 8/23/23. Classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The boiler inspections were last completed on 5/31/26.

I - Power was again discussed at the visit. All staff should continue to upload training certificates into their profiles.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

Date: 09/03/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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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**.