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

Name of Center: St John Noah's Ark Christian Childcare **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6956

Street: 301 N 13th ST **City:** Clarinda Iowa **Zip** 51632 **County:** Page

Mailing Address: 301 N 13th ST, Clarinda, IA, 51632

Director's Name: Penny Schuessler **Phone Number:** 712-542-5501

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** stjohn.noahsark@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-18-2023

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: 06-16-2023

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	10	36	26	80
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2022 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 10-24-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to St. John Noah's Ark on 10-18-2023. The program offers child care services to children infant age to school age 6:30 am to 6:00 pm and a preschool program. The program is located in the St. John Lutheran Church in Clarinda Iowa. The center is a two story brick building. The main floor is the child care center, the second floor is the preschool and the basement area has the dining area and an indoor play area. Penny Schuessler became the director in July 2019. Penny has a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, a Child Care A.A. and an Early childhood Certificate. She has many years of child care experience.
I met with Penny Schuessler during my off year licensing visit. There were 36 children enrolled.

Observation of rooms:
All program rooms were observed and were in ratio. The program rooms look very nice and have a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.
The children were having fun playing and the preschool was being held upstairs. The staff had good interactions with the children and were attentive to the needs of the children.
Penny teaches preschool on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The other preschool staff teach preschool on Mondays and Fridays.
Grants for equipment and supplies have been received. The church endowment provided a loft for the toddler room.
During the school year/school days the program doesn't have school age children enrollment because the school ended the school bus pick up and drop off location at the center. They continue to have a school age summer program.
The center uses the Procare app.
A staff persons purse was accessible to the children in the toddler room. This is a repeat violation from my 2022 licensing visit. Please make sure staff place their personal belongings/purses out of the reach of the children.
The daily sheets looked good.
A child's hands weren't washed after diaper changing and the staff didn't know the dwell time for the Oxivir Tb. The staff were confused about hand washing and thought they were supposed to wash the childs hands before diaper changing, and the staff didn't know the dwell time for the Oxivir Tb. Review diaper changing procedure with all staff 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. I would recommend that you post the dwell time for Oxivir Tb for disinfecting and the bleach water for sanitizing. Please review and consider posting what is sanitized and what is disinfected.

The curriculums used are Creative Curriculum, Iowa Learning Standards, a religious curriculum and Learning Beyond Paper on the Procare app. Parent teacher conferences are held twice a year, progress and goals are discussed.
The teachers in each program room prepare the lesson plans/activities and Penny reviews them.

Nutrition:
The center in on the federal food program. The center prepares breakfast, and snacks and the local hospital makes the lunch. Volunteers from the church pick up the lunch from the hospital each day and deliver it to the center. The menus are posted on a weekly basis. The meals are served downstairs, toddlers eat in their room. The church has a nice large kitchen. Proper food storage was observed. Make sure the refrigerator and freezers have thermometers.

Health and safety:
The center practices and documents monthly fire/tornado drills. The church installed a radon mitigation system in July 2023. Eight Radon tests were completed in February 2023 all tests were under a 4.0 pCi/L.
Penny reported that the building is all electric. If you have any fuel burning appliances (furnace etc.) you will need an annual fuel burning inspection.
Medication management procedures are followed when children are prescribed medication and the medication log is used.
The center is using the three step bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting. Bleach/water is used for sanitizing and Oxivir is used for disinfecting. One person is mixing the individual bleach/water bottles for sanitizing. A child's hands weren't washed after diaper changing. The staff were confused about hand washing and thought they were supposed to wash the childs hands before diaper changing. Review diaper changing procedure with all staff 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. I would recommend that you post the dwell time for Oxivir Tb for disinfecting and the bleach water for sanitizing. Please review and consider posting what is sanitized and what is disinfected.

Playground:
The center built their new playground in May 2021. They have a climber, a section for the younger children, a sand box, a tree piece of equipment. Monthly playground safety inspections were completed. Grants for a shade tarp, trikes and helmets were received.

Transportation:
No transportation is provided by the center. Walking field trips are taken throughout the year.

Administrative records:
Staff files were read, Penny is updating her physical and criminal record check. Some staff are in the process of getting their physicals. National record checks - fingerprinting needs to be completed and sent in prior to an employee starting employment. Criminal record checks must be competed before starting employment. Penny completes the fingerprinting for staff for the national record check.
Staff meetings are held on the third Monday of every month.
Penny is hiring staff and reports the challenges of finding and keeping staff.
Penny reported that she has worked with the Child Care Resource and Referral worker and the child care nurse consultant, Heather Marsh a few times each year.
The center began a employee incentive program, staff can receive $500.00 if they complete all of their training within 90 days.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Penny Schuessler became the director of the center in July 2019. Penny received her NAC credential in 2023. Kendra Foster is working on getting her CDA, Penny would like her to be the on-site supervisor.
Staff were attentive to the needs of the children.
Your program is a wonderful resource in your community.
The board of directors is very supportive of the program and they help with a variety of duties such as fundraising, repairs etc.

The center receives grants for supplies and equipment i.e. a new shade tarp for the playground, trikes/helmets. A loft for the toddler room was received through the church endowment. The bathrooms on the main floor were remodeled in 2023, they have new toilets, sinks, fixtures and the walls were painted.
The bathrooms in the basement were remodeled and new carpet was installed in the basement hallway in 2022.
The church installed a radon mitigation system in July 2023.
Cameras have been installed in 2023.
Fundraising is held during the year and a dinner/auction is held in April.
The center began a employee incentive program, staff can receive $500.00 if they complete all of their training within 90 days.

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

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.

Additional concerns:
A child's hands weren't washed after diaper changing and the staff didn't know the dwell time for the Oxivir Tb. The staff were confused about hand washing and thought they were supposed to wash the childs hands before diaper changing. Review diaper changing procedure with all staff 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. I would recommend that you post the dwell time for Oxivir Tb for disinfecting and the bleach water for sanitizing. Please review and consider posting what is sanitized and what is disinfected.

REPEAT VIOLATION - 109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
A staff persons purse was accessible to the children in the toddler room. Please make sure staff place their personal belongings/purses out of the reach of the children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 2-1-2022 to 2-1-2024.
Off year licensing visit 10-18-2023.

*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.