Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Thomas Aquinas PS & BLAST After School Prog

Provider No.: 18095

Address: 624 Dubuque St, Webster City, IA, 50595

County: Hamilton

Director's Name: Theresa Schleisman

On-Site Supervisor: Lana Crawford

Phone Number: 5158321346

E-Mail: tschleisman@stswc.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/11/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2024 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/27/2023

Comments: E-mail confirmation received on 01-27-23 from the fire marshal that the facility had been inspected and was compliant

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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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			24		24
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the St. Thomas Aquinas program on 09-11-25 where I met with the lead teacher Lana Crawford. The school principal and program director, Theresa Schleisman, was not in on the day of the visit. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold based on their experience, education, and on-going professional development. Lana started with the program at the start of the 2023 school year, but has worked as a program director and preschool teacher with another program prior to that. The center offers preschool programming to 4 year old children T, Th,F, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm as part of the Statewide 4 Year Old Preschool Grant program which has a teacher from the school district, where Lana is the classroom assistant. The center then offers afternoon "wrap around" daycare programming for children that remain until the end of the school day at 3:30 where Lana is the lead teacher. The program also offers a 3 year preschool M,W 8:30 am to 11:30 am with Lana as the lead teacher for that program. Lana did hire two new assistants, Brittany Mass, and Sarah Fonken, who started with the program for the 25-26 school year. The preschool is operated in one classroom located in the St. Thomas Aquinas church and school. There are currently 16 children enrolled in the 3 year old preschool class, and 10 of the children enrolled in the 4 year old class remain at the end of the day for the wrap around daycare programming. All aspects subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classroom remain the same as in prior reports. The physical facilities were observed to be in good repair and clean. The preschool classroom is an interior space that does not have any windows and so also serves as a designated storm shelter. There are two sinks in the classroom that allows for one to be used for hand washing, and the other to be used for food preparation or drinking water if needed. Restrooms are located off the main hallway outside the classroom and the children are escorted when needed given the multiple use nature of the facilities. The classroom and facilities were observed to be clean with no maintenance concerns noted. The room is divided into activity centers through the placement of low shelves and furnishings which are arranged to provide the children with room to play and not create any blind areas. The toys and materials were observed to be in good repair, appropriate to the ages of the children present, and supportive of the planned curriculum.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed during the time of my visit with each of the teachers being actively engaged with the children either interacting with them in their play, presenting the planned curriculum, or attending to their direct care needs. The class was engaged in self-directed center play when I arrived and the teachers were spaced throughout the room allowing them to provide supervision and be available to assist the children as needed. The teachers did talk with the children about their play helping them to develop and build skills by giving suggestions and guidance.
Good behavior management techniques were observed with the teachers using positive proactive approaches such as establishing routines, recognizing positive behaviors, and providing reminders of expectations, and normalizing behaviors

that were not disruptive or unsafe. This approach was very effective with only minor issues arising during the visit which were easily addressed through simple redirection, and guided problem solving. The teachers also maintained a focus on safety with addressing concerns such as when children were climbing on tables, or in areas where they were not supposed to be. Each of the teachers used energetic and positive tones when speaking to the children. Ratio was maintained with 3 teachers present in the classroom.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the visit. Children were escorted to the restroom as needed which allowed teachers to provide supervision, and ensure that children washed their hands in an effective manner. One issue that was noted was that when taking children to the restroom before snack the class was divided into 2 groups with one using the restroom while the teacher read to the other. When the first group returned they sat on the floor while the other group went to the restroom but did not re-wash their hands after the story when it was time for snack. With the availability of the sinks in the classroom the teachers should have had those children re-wash before going to their assigned spot for snack. First aid kits are maintained in the classroom, and the program also has access to additional supplies maintained in the school office. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for the children to be engaged in activities in other areas before using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk to children are stored in areas where they are not accessible. Table were sanitized both before and following snack service.

The school has a large playground space that includes a climbing structure, swings, paved area, and a green space. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing beneath the structures. Shade is available from large mature trees along the edges of the playground, the building, and the climbing structure. A storage shed is present where additional toys and materials are stored. While the school is responsible to maintain the playground the teachers for the preschool and wrap around program do conduct assessments of the equipment and restrict children from those elements that require maintenance.

Snacks for the 3 year old preschool program are provided by parents who rotate responsibility each day, and the school provides snacks for the 4 year old children. A list of suggested items is provided to parents that includes credible snack options. A limited supply of snack items is kept in the classroom to supplement as needed. Good food storage and handling practices were observed on the day of my visit with teachers washing their hands for serving snack. Snacks were single serving prepacked items. For those children who remain in the wrap around program lunch is prepared by the school. Lunch is served in the school cafeteria but the children do sit at a separate table and the teachers sit at the table to provide supervision. A menu of served items is maintained for the snacks, and the school lunch menu is posted. The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision and assistance at the tables.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and the License Certificate were present and located in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required notices for emergency evacuation, emergency numbers, handwashing procedures, curriculum, and schedule were also present. The program is within the first 30 days of operation and still gathering child physicals but most were complete. All staff files were reviewed and contained all required information. All inspection certificates and logs were current and available.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(6): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene.
-- Prior to snack children used the restroom and washed their hands in two groups. When the first group returned to the room they sat on the floor while listening to a story and waiting for their peers. Those children did not re-wash their hands immediately prior to having snack though there was a sink available in the room that they could have easily done so.

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

Requirements for hand washing were reviewed.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

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Date: 09/22/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.