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

Name of Center: Notre Dame Catholic School Playgroup **Enrollment:** 20 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 38077

Street: 221 2nd Ave E **City:** Cresco Iowa **Zip** 52136 **County:** Howard

Mailing Address: 221 2nd Ave E, Cresco, IA, 52136

Director's Name: Katie Schmitt **Phone Number:** 563-547-4513

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rachel Beran **E-Mail:** kschmitt@nd.pvt.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 09-23-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-09-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-05-2022

Comments : Compliance on 04/21/22

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.) 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	0	0	12	0	12
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/23/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Notre Dame Catholic School-Playgroup in Cresco. I met with Rachel Beran, the on-site supervisor and lead teacher for the Playgroup. She was previously employed by Notre Dame for three years as a paraeducator and has her paraeducator certificate. She started back with Notre Dame as the lead teacher for this program in August 2023. Kayla Malven is the teacher associate in the Playgroup classroom. She started in the classroom in August 2024. I also met with Katie Schmitt, the director of the Playgroup class and principal of Notre Dame Catholic School.

The Playgroup operates out of Notre Dame Catholic School. The Playgroup was previously licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. It closed in March 2020 due to Covid 19 and closed their license in October 2021 because they did not have a teacher for the program. They decided to re-open the program and were given Permission to Open Without a License on 09/06/22.

The Playgroup serves children who are three and four-years-old. The preschool offers a class on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:30 am. There are currently 20 children enrolled.

The program operates out of one classroom. Artificial lighting is used. The room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Play-Doh, dramatic play, math, and literacy. 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 phone in the classroom and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number are posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were posted by the main program door. A daily schedule was posted. An activity calendar was available for review.

Ms. Beran is using a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. An assessment is performed at the beginning of the school year. Another will be performed toward the end of the year. Parent-teacher conferences will be offered in the spring. The program follows Quality Preschool Program Standards and Iowa Early Learning Standards. A lesson plan was available for review. There is a smart projector in the classroom.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections.

A radon test was completed in October 2022. Radon tests should be completed every two years. Results were above recommended EPA guidelines. There were two kits placed in the room and the results were 6.8 pCi/L and 6.7 pCi/L.

Results should be under 4.0 pCi/L. Another short term test was completed in October 2023 and the result of both tests was 4.5 pCi/L. This is again above the recommended EPA guidelines. You must do a long-term test. I would recommend contacting a radon specialist to discuss the situation.

The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. Please place an updated boiler inspection in the licensing binder. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is on the west side of the classroom. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/05/22 with compliance on 04/21/22. Fire inspections must occur every three years.

The center uses Lysol multi-surface cleaner to sanitize the food tables. This can be used as a sanitizer and it has a 60 second dwell time. I did not observe staff members clean and sanitize the food tables prior to snack. This should occur every day prior to sitting down to eat snack. If you always go to the gym right before snack. I would recommend doing it prior to leaving for the gym so it is ready when you return to the room.

There is one sink in the room and procedures were posted. The children use two bathrooms down the hall from the classroom. The girl's bathroom has five toilets and three sinks and the boy's bathroom has three toilets, three urinals and three sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations.

The Playgroup is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follows the guidelines as mandated. The school provides the snack for the children. The parents pay a $14 fee for snacks each semester. The school sends home a list of snacks that will be provided to the children. The children eat snack in the classroom. Disposable products are used so dishwashing is not required. A snack calendar was available for review. Snacks were stored according to the NHSPS guidelines.

The program has a fenced in grassy area that they share with the four-year-old preschool program. The area has one piece of climbing equipment with slides. There is also a stationary bouncy car for the children. Woodchips are used for surface cushioning. There is a tree to provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board outside the classroom. 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 and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. There were two missing physicals, two missing immunization certificates and one invalid immunization record because it was not on the mandated HHS certificate. The nurse is coming to do an immunization audit next week so this will not be cited because she can make the corrections. The program has 30 days to get the physicals so this will not be cited.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were amazing with the children. Ms. Beran and her assistant, Ms. Malven, are both gentle spoken which brings a calmness to the room. Staff members were actively engaged with the children. They sat on the floor and interacted with them at their level. They offered the children choice. They were patient and talked with the children about the schedule. They encouraged the children to use their imaginations. They sang and dances with the children and had a lot of enthusiasm. Ms. Schmitt came in and read a book to the children. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Beran states the children are learning a lot.

Ms. Malven states they are preparing the children for the four-year-old preschool class.

Ms. Beran states she likes the amount of time allotted for the class. They use a lot of transitions to keep the children's attention. They have a lot of fun.

Ms. Beran states Julie Haskovec is the four-year-old preschool teacher and her "mentor teacher". They meet frequently and talk about routines and expectations of what she should be doing to prepare her students for next year. Ms. Beran states Ms. Haskovec complimented her for how well the children were prepared for this year and it made her feel god.

Ms. Beran states they had several children cry at drop-off so next year she wants to schedule one on one visits with the parent and the child at the school so the children feel more comfortable with her and the classroom. Ms. Beran states they

did have an open house but that was having everyone there at once.

Ther is busing available for the children through NEICAC Transit, but the parents must pay a fee.

The program using email and a “Remind” app to communicate with families.

The preschool program provides the parents with a weekly newsletter that goes over everything the children were learning that week.

The program is in a secure building.

Ms. Beran and Ms. Malven have terrific teamwork.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. 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.