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

Name of Center: St Paul Lutheran Preschool **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18040

Street: 1217 4th Ave S **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 1217 4th Ave S, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Dawn Vought **Phone Number:** 515-955-7208

On-Site Supervisor(s): Anna Zimmerman **E-Mail:** dawn.vought@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-05-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 09-06-2022

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 X NAEYC NSACA Other 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			21	29	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-13-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the St. Paul Lutheran Preschool on 10-05-23 where I met with the center director Dawn Vought, and Anna Zimmerman. This program is located in the St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Dodge. Dawn and Anna both have extensive experience and training in early childhood education having been with the program for 20+ years. The center provides preschool programming for 4 and 3 year old children, and wrap-around daycare for children in the afternoon until the end of the school day. The 4 year old preschool class meets daily, and 3 year old preschool is provided in two sessions with one meeting MWF morning, and the other on TTH. There are currently 37 children enrolled in the preschool classes, and 14 who attend the wrap around daycare program. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit with the exception of the after school programming.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. The program makes use of two classrooms for the preschool programming, one of which is then used for the afternoon wrap around program. Both classrooms were observed to be clean and well maintained with no concerns related to maintenance. Both rooms have windows along the exterior wall that provides natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and secondary emergency egress. Both rooms have sinks in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Restrooms are located off the main hallway and children are escorted to the bathroom as needed. Both rooms have an open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the use of furniture and play structures. The materials are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas. Both classrooms have an elevated play center loft. Each activity center was stocked with materials that were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Both classrooms had a copy of the daily schedule and curriculum posted.

Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit with both classrooms following the planned curriculum and schedule. This included both presenting teacher lead group activities, self-directed center play, and outdoor play play. Good behavior management techniques were observed with both Dawn and Anna using praise, reminders of expected behavior, and redirection as needed.

Hand washing practices do need to be reviewed. During the visit the children did have a morning snack and while sinks are available in the classrooms, and the children pass by the school restrooms before entering the cafeteria they did not wash their hands before having their snack. Both classrooms maintain first aid kits which contain materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Additional supplies are maintained in the school office. Chemical cleaners and other items that could be a risk to children are stored in areas inaccessible to the children.

The school has two playground areas with one for the school age children, and one for the preschool age children. Both have climbing structures which are appropriate to the developmental levels of the children making use of them. The equipment was generally in good repair but one spinner drum on the preschool structure was missing the bottom retention bolt and the top bolt was backing out. This should be replaced to prevent the drum from being removed which would increase the risk of a child suffering injury from entrapment, or laceration from the remaining bolt. The pea gravel used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures has develop a hard pan layer and either needs to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of material before the structure is used. It is noted that this is the second year both of these issues

were cited. The center does either need to correct these issues or limit children from using those structures until such time that they are corrected. It is noted that the children were observed playing on that structure during the visit. In addition to the climbing structures there is a large open grassy area, and a paved area where children can play. The playground is enclosed by fencing due to being near a busy road and the fence was in good repair. There are trees to provide shade. Additional toys and materials are available for the children to play with.

For those children that attend the wrap around program the center provides lunch. Lunch is prepared by the school cafeteria. A menu of the planned meals is posted and good food handling practices were observed. The parents continue to take it in turn to provide snacks. A list of recommended snack items is provided to parents, and a menu of items that is served is maintained. A limited supply of snack items is maintained at the center to supplement as needed and good food storage practices were in place. The teachers do not typically eat with the children but do provide supervision at the tables.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. A random selection of 25% of the child files were reviewed and each file did have all required information. In reviewing staff files all required information was present for both Dawn and Anna, however the information for Dawn's assistant teacher could not be located. It was reported that this information would be maintained by the school administrative office and while it was reported that the background checks had been completed they were not in the employee's file. If those records cannot be found they will need to be resubmitted. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates the Radon testing results had just expired in the prior month and need to be renewed. In reviewing emergency fire and tornado drills these were either not being practiced or recorded as required. During the prior school year fire drills were only logged for the months of October and March, and tornado drills in October, November, and March. This is the second year this has been cited and those were the same months that the drills had been logged for the 21-22 school year. Based on this it would appear that the program is only practicing those drills when they are conducted by the school as a whole. While those drills can be included Licensing Standards does require that both fire and tornado drills are practiced and logged each month for each session. Documentation for each session does need to be maintained.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program continues to have a very strong focus on developing school readiness skills which has resulted in a positive reputation in the community and strong enrollment for each class.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 1 Documentation could not be found on the day of the visit for either the Iowa SING or the National Fingerprint check. If the documentation cannot be located the background checks will need to be redone.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 1 Documentation could not be found on the day of the visit. If the documentation cannot be located a renewed report and/or physical would be required.

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.
-- Children's hands were not washed immediately prior to snack service.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
-- Documentation of emergency drill practice for both fire and tornado drills conducted each month for each session was not maintained. Drill must be logged or are otherwise considered to have not occured. -- 2nd YEAR CITED

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.
-- The pea gravel used for fall surfacing has developed a hardpan layer and does not have a sufficient depth of material as required by the CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf). The center shall not allow use of the identified structure(s) until such time that corrections are made.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Previous testing results expired in the prior month and while were within normal limits do need to be renewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant within 30 days of the receipt of this report identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

NOTE: For those issues identified as being cited for the 2nd year continued non-compliance could be viewed as willful disregard for licensing standards and could result in negative action being taken against the center. For the playground maintenance the center shall restrict children from using those aspects that were damaged, or which require fall surfacing until such time that corrections are made. For emergency drills please submit a prepared calendar of dates that drills will be conducted for each month during the remaining months of the school year by 10-31-23.

*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.