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

Name of Center: St. Timothy Preschool and Child Care **Enrollment:** 90 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22896

Street: 1 Thelma ST **City:** Hudson Iowa **Zip** 50643 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: PO Box 567, Hudson, IA, 50643

Director's Name: Clara Nehmer **Phone Number:** 319-988-3633

On-Site Supervisor(s): Clara Nehmer **E-Mail:** preschool@sttimothyhudson.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-04-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-02-2024

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

Date Inspected: 12-29-2021

Comments : Compliance on 01/11/22

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	10	10	25	30	75
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-18-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/04/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Timothy Lutheran Preschool and Child Care in Hudson. I met with Clara Nehmer, the director of the program. Ms. Nehmer has been with the program since September 2015, and she has a BA in an unrelated field. The program employs twenty-five staff members.

The program is in St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Hudson. Children can attend preschool three or five days each week. The preschool operates from 8:00-11:00 am. The preschool serves children ages three through five-years-old. Cindy Haas is the four- and five-year-old preschool teacher for the program. She started with the program in July 2019. Ms. Haas has a BA in early childhood education. Allison "Allie" Lyon is the lead teacher of the three-year-old preschool class.

The childcare program operates 7:00 am until 5:30 pm and serves children ages eighteen months old through twelve-years-old. The childcare program operates all year around and on days when there is no school. There are currently 90 children enrolled.

The program utilizes four rooms: a room for children 18 months old through two-years-old, a three-year-old room, a four and five-year-old room and a school age room (the fellowship hall). The fellowship hall is also used as the dining room.

Ms. Nehmer did enroll a child who is sixteen months old. She has been informed that licensing standards do not allow children under the age of eighteen months to be cared for in the same room as children ages two and older.

An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting in one of the rooms and artificial lighting is used in the other rooms. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. There is an area for circle time in the preschool rooms.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, blocks/Legos, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art/crafts, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, Play-Doh, magnets, woodworking, puppets and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

There is a bathroom with a toilet and sink in the entrance. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is a sink located in the room for children eighteen months through two-years-old. There is also a changing table in this room. Handwashing and diaper changing procedures were posted. The children also have access to bathrooms located across from the Fellowship Hall. The girl's and boy's bathrooms each have two toilets and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted.

Staff members use a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review. The program is faith based and include Christian activities in their day. The pastor typically meets with the preschool children monthly for chapel. Ms. Haas has created her own assessment tool for the children that measures phonological awareness, number

concepts, science, word works and essential standards. Ms. Haas states their program is very individualized for the children and based on where the children are developmentally.

A daily schedule is posted in the entrance and so is the menu.

The ProCare app is used to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two-years-old. All rooms use the app to communicate with parents and to send pictures of the children throughout the day.

There is a phone in the rooms and emergency phone numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted near the phones. Staff members also communicate with two-way radios. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The playground inspections are completed by a volunteer church member. There was not an inspection completed in March, April and May 2024. The playground inspections must occur every month.

A radon test was completed in September 2024 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The program previously had high radon results, so they installed a radon mitigation system in the fall of 2020. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and were installed on the ceilings when the church put in a new fire alarm system. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 12/29/21, with compliance on 01/11/22.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but follow the food program guidelines. The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The program uses a four week rotation of menus. Ms. Nehmer states they worked with a dietician so menus would meet CACFP guidelines. Parents have the option to bring their own lunch and snacks. Jody Heaverlo is the food service manager/cook. Family style is not used.

The children eat all snacks and meals in the Fellowship Hall. There is an industrial freezer and refrigerator in the kitchen. There is also a small refrigerator. Thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There are four sinks to clean dishes and an industrial dishwasher to clean and sanitize all dishes. There is one hand washing sink in the kitchen and procedures were posted.

The center uses Member's Mark Commercial Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and disinfect the changing table.

Cots are used to nap in each room. There are mats available to nap for the children who attend on no preschool days at the public school.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the entrance. 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.

The program received grants to develop a playground behind the center. The playground was completed this past summer. The area is partially fenced in. There is a concrete riding path. While the playground is one large space, there is an area for infants/toddlers and an area for children ages two through school aged. Turf is used for fall surface cushioning in both areas. There also areas where pea gravel is used and where there are woodchips. There is a small piece of climbing equipment with a ramp for the younger children and a larger piece of equipment with slides, a climbing wall and other activities. There are tire swings in the area for the younger children and bigger swings in another area. There are several activities in the playground area. There are steppingstones, wood blocks and tree stumps for the children to walk on and a playhouse. There is a sandbox and an area with a basketball hoop and a Funhoop. There are picnic tables for the children to rest. Trees have been planted for shade and there are two shade structures. There is an old corn crib that has been re-modeled for storage.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed fifteen children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed four staff files. They were in good condition. There was one outdated universal precautions training.

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 great at getting the children outside to play. They are in constant communication with one another and had great teamwork. Staff members use positive redirection when necessary and provided the children with praise. Staff members were observed on the floor actively engaged in activities with the children. They were patient and encouraged the children use their imaginations. The staff member offered the children choices. Classrooms had organized binders of

activities for the children. The children appeared to enjoy themselves at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Nehmer states the center has great staff members and they could not do what they do without them.

Ms. Nehmer states the parents are very supportive of the program.

Ms. Nehmer states they receive terrific community support.

The center is a bus stop for school-age children and the voluntary four-year-old preschool children who attend preschool at the public school.

Ms. Nehmer states the school resource officer worked at the childcare center over the summer part time. The children loved having him here.

While I was at the center all the classrooms made sure the children made it outside to play or go for walks.

The program has a great summer school-age program. They try to keep the children busy with field trips. Some of the field trips include swimming, a movie, bowling, the library, the park/splash pad. They also take walks.

The librarian visits the center once each month.

I observed the staff members to have great teamwork with one another.

The program has a business manager who has taken on administrative tasks. This has been helpful.

The program is a ministry of the church. The program incorporates Bible stories and Chrisitan teachings. The preschool children meet with the pastor once each month. Ms. Nehmer states she believes it is important that they include prayer in their classroom.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Nehmer states the program completes evaluations on each of the children that include not only an educational aspect, but also a social/emotional aspect.

Ms. Nehmer is an amazing director. She is continually looking to make improvements and meet the needs of more families. She is organized and focused and seems to have a good relationship with the staff members.

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

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
The playground inspections are completed by a volunteer church member. There was not an inspection completed in March, April and May 2024. The playground inspections must occur every month.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

I am making an administrative change to remove Allyssa Norman as an on-site supervisor. She is no longer with the program.

*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.