Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Warriors Preschool

Provider No.: 52942

Address: 1009 South Main St, Alta, IA, 51002

County: Buena Vista

Director's Name: Jeni Marshall

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122001010

E-Mail: jmarshall@alta-aurelia.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 11/19/2025

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/28/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at the Little Warriors program in Alta IA. This is a 3-year-old preschool class. I was able to speak with the director Jeni Marshall who has many years of experience working with children at this age and has previously been a director at another center. The room itself is located in the preschool wing of the elementary school building. There are two other rooms of 4-year-old children. They share a common indoor and outdoor playground area. The program runs Monday thru Thursday 7:45 am to 3:15 pm. They follow the school schedule for early outs and professional development. They are currently 12 children enrolled and 11 present at the time of my visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The program uses the High Scope Creative Curriculum, which is designed to provide a rich academic foundation while fostering independence, decision-making, cooperation, creativity, and problem-solving through active, hands-on learning experiences. High Scope emphasizes hands-on, child-initiated learning, where children explore, experiment, and problem-solve through play. This approach fosters curiosity, independence, and critical thinking skills. The room features well-organized learning centers that promote play-based exploration, including a magnet board and a light board, which encourage sensory engagement, creativity, and fine motor development. The classroom includes a variety of engaging visual displays such as numbers, the alphabet, a job chart, a daily schedule, and sight words, all of which support early literacy and routine awareness. The atmosphere was warm and positive, with natural light streaming in through the windows, creating a welcoming and comfortable environment. Staff were actively engaged with the children, fostering meaningful interactions and supporting learning through play. Family photos are displayed throughout the room, helping to create a sense of belonging and connection between the children’s home and school environments. This supports emotional security and strengthens the relationship between families and the program.

Both the indoor and outdoor play areas were equipped with a variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment that support physical development and active play. Monthly safety inspections are conducted and documented to ensure the equipment remains in good condition and safe for use.

Medication is securely stored in a locked box or placed out of children's reach, although no children were present at the time of inspection. Tables are sanitized prior to meals, and both staff and children were observed practicing proper handwashing techniques. The first aid kit is adequately stocked to address minor injuries. The annual heating inspection has been completed, and the center is equipped with a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were clean, well-maintained, and reflected strong adherence to health and safety policies and procedures. Monthly fire/tornado drills were completed.

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Meals are prepared and served from the school kitchen, which follows the nutritional standards and guidelines set by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), ensuring that children receive balanced and healthy meals. Proper handwashing practices were observed, with both staff and children following appropriate hygiene procedures that align with health and safety standards.

Little Warriors is a newly established program that addresses a vital need within the community by providing quality early childhood education and care. Its presence supports working families and contributes to the overall well-being and development of young children in the area.

Goals of the program are to increase enrollment as well as begin the process of IQ4K certification.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

A key strength of this program is the strong support it receives from both the school and the broader community, which enhances its ability to provide high-quality care and education to children.

Staff are actively engaged with students, providing hands-on support that fosters learning, builds strong relationships, and promotes a nurturing and responsive classroom environment.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Please ensure cleaning chemical are kept in locked cabinet or out of reach of the children. .

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please email this consultant the correction of aspects not in compliance by 12/31/25.

I will make a referral to CCR&R to assist with licensing book and record keeping. It is recommended that you have an HHS licensing book that is organized and combine medical information with the child files. A copy in the child's physical should be in the actual file.

A full license is recommended at this time.

A visit will occur within the next Calander year.

Date: 11/20/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.