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

Name of Center: Our Lady's Little Learners Preschool **Enrollment:** 66 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28314

Street: 510 E 1st St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 510 E 1st St , Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Shelley Tegels **Phone Number:** 515-964-3106

On-Site Supervisor(s): NA **E-Mail:** Shelley@olih.org, preschool@olih.org

Date(s) of Visit: 12-12-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-11-2023

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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			55		55
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-28-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was completed 12-12-23. Shelley Tegels, director, was present through the entire visit.

Our Lady's Little Learners Preschool program started in 2003 and is located in Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church in Ankeny. The church owns the preschool and assists financially. Shelley has been the director since 2009. She meets the qualifications to be the director. The classroom doors are kept locked when preschool is in session.

The preschool uses three classrooms for the six sessions of preschool. Children must be between three and five years old to attend. Morning classes meet from 8:30-11:00 am, and afternoon classes meet from noon-2:30 pm. The three year old children can attend two or three days a week, the four year old children can attend three or five days a week, and the pre-k children meet five days a week. The preschool also has access to the use of the gymnasium which allows them to do large motor play indoors.

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

Room Observations/Activities: The center has created their own curriculum based on Iowa Early Learning Standards. The lesson plans are based on these standards. The rooms are in ratio and staff were observed to maintain structure. The staff were consistently observed to be engaged in leading group activities and to be responsive and nurturing with the children. There is a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities available in the rooms. The rooms were nicely organized and arranged in such a way to provide good supervision. Handwashing signs were posted as required.

Nutrition practices: The center has access to the Church's kitchen, however it is rarely used. The program does not provide lunch, the parents provide snacks items/lunch. Snack times are used to increase group "intentions" (interactions/processing) with staff.

Health and Safety: Medication, when required, is stored securely in the classroom. Handwashing posters are present by the sinks as reminders. Staff and children were observed to practice good handwashing technique. There is a first aide kit in all rooms along with an AED on the property. Emergency plans are posted as required. Fire/Tornado drills were documented to have been completely monthly as required. Radon was completed 12/2022 and below the 4.0 cutoff. HVAC is maintained by the church with an inspection that did not need repeated until Jan/2024.. There are carbon monoxide detectors present.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented to have been completed monthly. During the winter season, the program has access to the indoor gym for large motor play.

Transportation/Field Trips: NA

Administrative review: Information regarding mandatory reporter, Handbook accessibility, Consultant contact, License, fire/tornado plans and no-smoking signs were posted as required. Six child files were reviewed and all contained the required information; Three employee files were reviewed and all contained the required information. This center has an established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director feels they provide a structured preschool that focuses on academics and is also family oriented. They provide learning opportunities for the children to grow and develop. They are a faith based program open to all denominations.

The feedback they receive from school teachers tells them they are sending children to kindergarten with the skills needed to be successful in their learning.

All staff work very well together as a team. The staff and the Director meet every morning prior to class to discuss their planned day and support each other; they end with a teacher's prayer. This has helped with cohesiveness and grounding staff for the day, in addition staff feeling support from each other.

The staff are invested in the preschool and are happy to be at the preschool.

The Director feels the children are happy and comfortable at the preschool. The preschool has family night outs and fundraisers.

The center has worked hard on the safety aspect, which includes the entire building. The Director previously received a grant to purchase radios that staff carry with them for communication and there are cameras set up in the center.

The center has a website and a Facebook page. Emails are sent to the parents with updates as well as a weekly newsletter from the teachers. The preschool has started using a new App which assists with communication with parents.

The center sends out surveys to the parents for feedback in the Spring.

The staff have weekly meetings.

All lead teachers have a teaching degree or a four year degree. Every classroom has a licensed teacher.

The center has a secure entrance.

The preschool has developed a strong relationship with Heartland AEA.

The director feels they meet the needs of the children and they see growth in the children. They meet the children where they are.

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

There were not aspects of operation that were found to fall below the standards reviewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The last test was completed in December 2022 and all fell below the 4.0 cutoff level.

The annual furnace/boiler inspection is completed every winter and is completed by the church.

The outdoor playground area has been completed in 2022 with new fencing put up around the green space, the play area incorporates a natural playscape with many interests for the children, including musical instruments and a fun car/truck path made over the sand pit area.

*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.