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

Name of Center: Little Lambs Preschool at Mt Olive Lutheran Church **Enrollment:** 69 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28348

Street: 5625 Franklin Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50310

Director's Name: Heidi Rains **Phone Number:** 515-277-8349

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** heidi.rains@molcs.org

Date(s) of Visit: 11-08-2022

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:** 09-06-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-21-2022

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

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			40	60	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 11-14-2022

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 conducted on 11/8/22. The director was present throughout the visit.

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.

Little Lambs Preschool has been in operation since 1989. This preschool is located in Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and school. There is a secured entrance. Heidi Rains started as director in September of 2012. Heidi has a BA in Elementary and Early Education. Heidi was employed by Des Moines Public Schools as a Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher prior to coming to Little Lambs Preschool.

The preschool offers all day programming for three year old children, as well as before and after school programming for all preschool children. The preschool began offering year round care in June of 2020, and this program will now offer and manage before and after school care, as well as summer care, for school age children, up to 5th grade. The program will have a week off right before school starts to get the classrooms ready for preschool and will then have a week off right when school ends to get ready for the summer programming. The hours of care combined with preschool is from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Summer care is open to the community for enrollment, not just families who attend this school/preschool.

The capacity for the program changed in 2020 with the addition of two classrooms and the lunch room to be used for before and after school care as well as summer programming. One classroom (which is the 1st grade classroom for the school) has a capacity of 20, another classroom (which is the Kindergarten classroom for the school) has a capacity of 21 and the lunch room has a total capacity of 32. The program will cap the school age capacity at 60 at this time.

The preschool uses One in Christ Curriculum as well as the Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum. They have added a new math curriculum called Sadlier and Oxford, as well as a new literacy curriculum for Pre-K called Fundations.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Heidi has a Bachelors degree in education and has years of experience teaching young children. Heidi brings years of experience and leadership to the program.

The center has classrooms that are well furnished.

The church, as well as the school, is a good support for the preschool and also provides some funding for the preschool. The school principal is a strong support and advocate for the program.

The preschool works to meet the needs of the families they serve. The preschool offers before and after school care for all preschool children, as well as all day programming for three year old children. The parents only pay for the days they use.

The preschool has a family atmosphere and is in the same building as the K-8th grade school. The older school age children are helpful to the preschool children and the 7th and 8th grade school age children buddy with a preschool child for chapel on Wednesday mornings and other activities.

The preschool children are prepared for kindergarten.

The program offers open enrollment for school age children which is pro-rated for only the days and hours they attend. The program also allows parents of preschool age children to choose if they want a 3 or 5 day program, half day or full day programming.

The center installed new windows in every classroom in the Early Childhood wing of the school. The center installed a new shade structure on the playground and put in new mulch on the playground. The center has a new roof and a new parking lot and some new sidewalks. The structure on the playground has been repaired.

The center has a strong team of teachers and some longevity of teachers, with teachers being at the center for 9 years, 8 years and 2 years.

The program continues to grow and has strong enrollment. Their summer program has strong enrollment and they were able to take the children on field trips in the summer twice a week, for children from 2nd grade to 5th grade.

The program has a partnership with the Drake OT department who came out monthly during the school year to do assessments and rotations, focusing on sensory, visual and large motor skills with the children. This started last Fall and they were out approximately 5 times during the school year.

The families are very supportive of the program and appreciative of the program.

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

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
One staff file reviewed did not have a repeat physical at the three year mark, this was completed at the 5 year mark.

109.10(3)a: All medications shall be stored in original containers with physician or pharmacist directions. Labels should be intact and stored so they are inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications shall be labeled with the child's name.
A prescription medication at the center was not stored in the original container with the label with physician or pharmacist directions.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The CACFP (food program) guidelines were discussed. The school provides lunch for the children and the children eat in the school cafeteria with elementary age children. The parents provide snacks and the preschool supplements when necessary. The three year old preschool class is now eating in their classroom. The school lunch personnel is bringing up the food in individual Styrofoam containers. Discussion took place regarding the use of Styrofoam with preschool age children and this cannot be used. The program will start bringing the food to the classroom in other containers that are not Styrofoam.

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon test was completed in September of 2022 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The annual furnace/boiler check is completed every October.

The director will obtain the label/container for the prescription medication.

A single cup coffee maker was in the three year old classroom on top of smaller refrigerator, it was not accessible to the

children, however contained a well of hot water that could potentially tip over onto a child if a child climbed on top of the unit or grabbed the cord to the coffee maker. This will be moved by the end of the day.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.