

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

Name of Center: Allison Little Lambs Child Care **Enrollment:** 15 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46013

Street: 721 Cherry St **City:** Allison Iowa **Zip** 50602 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 721 Cherry St, Allison, IA, 50602

Director's Name: Ashley Ludeman **Phone Number:** 319-267-2242

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** ashleyjludemann@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 09-01-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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	8	14	8	8	38
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 11-13-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Allison Little Lambs Child Care in Allison on 11-08-24 where I met with center director Ashley Ludeman. Ashley took over as the director of this program in April 2024 and is well qualified for the position having a Bachelor degree in Leisure, Youth & Human Services, extensive experience working in child care since 2008, and on-going professional development. The program operates out of a free standing building and has been in operation since 2015. The program did close for a brief period earlier in the year to reorganize which did include hiring Ashley. The program is operated as a non-profit entity overseen by a board of directors. The child care center operates Monday through Friday from 5:45 am until 6:00 pm serving infants through school-age. There are 15 children currently enrolled in the program served by 8 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the center and classrooms remains the same as observed in prior visits. The center utilizes three classrooms established by age for infants, toddlers, and preschool and school-aged children. Each room was observed to be clean with no issues related to maintenance noted. The center did address the temperature settings of the hot water which was previously identified as exceeding the allowable temperature of 120 deg. F. and has maintained the settings which were measured to be 98 deg. F. on the day of the visit. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has a direct exit to the exterior for emergency egress. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened freely and easily. Emergency signage is posted by exits as required but was missing from the main entry to the infant room and this does need to be replaced. Each classroom has bathroom facilities directly off the programming space so that children do not need to leave the room, and additional restroom facilities are located off main corridors. The infant room and toddler room also have diaper changing stations present in the room. Each room has additional sinks in the room that allow for hand washing, and separate sinks that can be used for food preparation related activities. The program has a basement which is used as an emergency shelter. Classrooms are arranged to create activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged such that it did not create any blind areas and provided the children with room to move and play.

The center maintains the basic activity center options of large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading, older classrooms also incorporation options such as dramatic play, group learning, experience tables, media, and math/science. The small climbing structure previously observed in the toddler room has been removed. The toys and materials present in each room were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were present in each classroom, and also provided to parents via a communications application. Each classroom develops their own curriculum plan. This included options such as in the infant room where the teachers had a variety of activities planned to help the children with building motor skills to allow for sitting up, crawling, and walking. The other classrooms had curriculums that were more based on general themes such as seasons or holidays. Good interactions were observed in each classroom with the teachers being actively engaged with the children attending to their needs. This included activities such as feeding/changing infants as needed and being down on the floor playing with them at other times. In the classrooms with older children the teachers moved through the planned schedule engaging in activities such as outdoor play, teacher lead group activities of reading to the toddlers, and small group

art/craft activities in the preschool classroom. The center uses positive behavior management approaches that include routines, recognition of positive behavior/praise, reminders of expected behavior, and redirection. This approach was well implemented with each of the teachers using calm and positive tones of voice with the children responding such that there were no behavioral issues or concerns noted on the day of the visit.

The center does have an attached playground which is fully enclosed by chain link fencing. The playground is divided into two areas with one for infants and toddlers, and one for older preschool and school age children. The playground area for the older children has a large commercial grade climbing structure which was installed in 2023 and which is in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing. A paved riding track was installed which is also used to define the fall surfacing area. The raised garden center has been renovated by removing dirt and replacing it with sand to create a raised digging/sand play area. In the toddler area there is a small residential grade climbing structure which had no fall surfacing placed beneath it. It was reviewed with Ashley that fall surfacing is required and that children needed to be restricted from using that structure until fall surfacing was added, or the structure needed to be removed. Shade is provided by a constructed shelter cover.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the planned menu was posted and the meals being served were consistent with what was planned. In reviewing the menu the only meal option(s) identified was lunch. While the menu did have spaces to include other meals/snacks these were not written down. It was also noted that some of the food items present were not credible and Ashley did state that some are personal snack belonging to staff. Completing the menu to identify planned options for all meals and snacks can help to ensure that credible food options are provided. Good food storage and handling practices were observed in the kitchen and classrooms. Meals are served in the classrooms with the teachers portioning the meals for the children and providing supervision at the tables.

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of the visit. I was able to observe several diaper changes during the time of the visit and the required diapering procedures were followed. Good hand washing practices were observed with staff ensuring that the children washed their hands as needed and that they did so in an effective manner. Medications were properly labeled and stored. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and stocked with items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Safe Sleep practice were followed on the day of my visit. Items such as chemical cleaners, purses and other personal items, and medications that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. Good cleaning practices were observed with staff disinfecting and sanitizing surfaces as required and needed. When using chemical cleaners the staff did wait for the children to be out of the immediate area.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to all parents and visitors. The center is using a combination of an electronic file management system and hard copy file records. In reviewing the child files each was found to contain all required information but it was noted that while those children with allergies did have response plans present they were insufficient. It was reviewed that allergy plans are required for all identified allergies and needed to include emergency contact information, description of the allergen, where it is commonly found, plans to prevent accidental exposure, symptoms of accidental exposure, and response to accidental exposure. Copies of sample forms were sent to the center. All staff files were reviewed and generally found to contain all required information with the exception of results of the required FBI Background Checks. It is noted that files did contain extra copies of the fingerprint cards, and results had been observed/confirmed for staff in the prior visit but Ashley was not certain where those results forms were. Ashley stated she would search for those results pages, and it was reviewed that if they could not be found that the record checks would need to be resubmitted. The center does have a small bus for transportation services and maintenance records were available. The required inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Fuel Burning Appliances, and Playground inspections. Ashley stated that the technician had been to the center in the previous week to conduct the inspection but the center was still waiting on the documentation/billing information from that inspection. Ashley also stated that playground inspections had not been completed since April and that she would ensure that those are being conducted.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has made several substantial changes over the past year with closing for a period to allow for reorganization of the program and hiring of a new director. The center did retain several staff other new classroom teachers were also hired. During the visit the staff that were present were doing an excellent job of implementing the planned curriculum and activities. The center had a calm and positive atmosphere and the children appeared to be enjoying their time at the center.

As noted each classroom had a well developed curriculum plan, and Ashley identified that the center is looking to incorporate the ABC Jesus Loves Me curriculum program.

The center is currently seeking to participate in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations in exchange for additional financial support.

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: 8 Records of background check results could not be found on the day of the visit including records which had previously been verified. If those records cannot be located the center will need to renew all FBI Fingerprint based background checks.

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 outdoor playground is not safe with a climbing structure in the toddler area that does not have fall surfacing. The unit shall either be removed, or children restricted from use until such time that fall surfacing installed. Fall surfacing must meet the requirements as established in the CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf>)

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks. Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

-- Menus did not include information regarding planned snacks as required to ensure that credible meal and snack options are being provided.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant 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: 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.