Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Rascals Preschool & Daycare

Provider No.: 50152

Address: 400 1st AVE SE, Le Mars, IA, 51031

County: Plymouth

Director's Name: Amber Hanson

On-Site Supervisor: Whitney Zenk-Holtgreve

Phone Number: 7125416650

E-Mail: littlerascalslemars@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/19/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2025 to 03/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/12/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			27	6	33
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit at Little Rascals Preschool and Childcare Center located in Le Mars, Iowa. During the visit, I met with the Director, Amber Hansen. Ms. Hansen holds a degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood endorsement and brings many years of experience working with children, including seven years with Head Start.

The center operates in the former St. George's Episcopal Church preschool facility and provides childcare before and after preschool hours. Little Rascals serves children ages three through ten. The preschool consists of three classrooms: a room for three-year-olds, a combined three/four-year-old preschool room, and a four/five-year-old preschool room. School-age children use the four/five-year-old preschool room when present. At the time of my visit, 25 children were in attendance out of 45 enrolled.

A daily schedule of activities was posted in the classrooms. Educational materials were displayed throughout the rooms, including colors, shapes, a picture schedule, job charts, children's artwork, and the alphabet. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum, a research-based program that promotes development in social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and language domains through hands-on exploration and project-based learning. Teachers use intentional planning and assessment tools to support individualized learning. The center features multiple visual aids, including numbers, letters, and words paired with pictures—such as alphabet charts, color posters, shape diagrams, and job charts—creating a warm and inviting environment.

The program also incorporates PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) through the Pyramid Model framework. This approach establishes clear expectations, teaches positive behaviors, and provides tiered supports to help children develop social-emotional skills and reduce challenging behaviors.

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Nutrition practices follow CACFP guidelines, and food storage was observed to be appropriate. Medication is stored securely in a locked box. Tables are sanitized prior to meals, and staff and children demonstrated proper handwashing procedures. A first aid kit sufficient for minor injuries was available. Monthly fire and tornado drills are documented, and the annual heating inspection has been completed. The center maintains a functioning carbon monoxide detector and follows good sanitary practices. All program areas were clean and well-maintained.

I observed activities in both classrooms during my visit. This week's theme focuses on a specific letter, with related activities. A STEM activity involving weight and measurement was also observed. The center plans to conduct radon testing within the next several weeks. If results indicate elevated levels, a mitigation plan will be required.

The outdoor play area consists of a fenced grassy space with a few playground toys, and the center also utilizes a local park for outdoor activities. Little Rascals has submitted its application for IQ4K certification. The program does not provide transportation for children.

I discussed discipline practices with staff. They reported using a system of 'red choices' and 'green choices' to help children understand appropriate behaviors and encourage problem-solving with adult guidance

Little Rascals is actively working toward IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids) certification, Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System. IQ4K is a voluntary program that recognizes and supports continuous quality improvement in early childhood programs through five levels of achievement. Participation demonstrates a commitment to high standards in areas such as staff training, health and safety, learning environments, and family engagement.

The program's goals include future expansion, and the center is currently in the initial phases of this project.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff work collaboratively to maintain a high-quality learning environment, supported by their involvement in IQ4K initiatives and PBIS professional development.

Throughout my visit, I observed teachers actively engaged with children during a variety of activities. They interacted warmly and attentively, offering encouragement, asking open-ended questions, and guiding children through problem-solving. Teachers were seated at child level, participating in play and learning experiences, which fostered a sense of trust and connection. Their involvement created an inviting atmosphere where children felt supported, valued, and eager to explore

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please send radon testing and if results continue to be high a mitigation plan needs to be developed.

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Please email consultant by 04/30/26 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year

Date: 02/23/2026

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**.