Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Learners Inc

Provider No.: 24522

Address: 950 Robins Square Dr, Robins, IA, 52328

County: Linn

Director's Name: Terri Martin

On-Site Supervisor: Lindsay Bascom

Phone Number: 3193783921

E-Mail: tjlittlelearners@aol.com
jmartin3921@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/31/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 06/03/2025

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:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	22	15	22	75
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Little Learners Inc has been in operation since 1988. This program offers year-round licensed childcare M-F 7:00am-5:30pm and serves age infant through school-age. Total enrolled and attending children were reported to be 39 on 8/31/2026.

Owner and director of this program for 38 years is Terri Martin. Ms. Martin has experience working with children and participates in professional development. On-site supervisor (OSS) is Lindsay Bascom. Ms. Bascom has been in this role since August 2021. Ms. Bascom has a BA degree, experience working with children, and participates in professional development.

On 8/31/2026, program space was observed. Primary programming occurs in assigned classrooms. There are restrooms and handwashing sinks to accommodate capacity. The program has access to an outdoor play area. All foods are stored and prepared in the on-site center kitchen. On 8/31/2026, activities observed were many and included infant cares, group lessons, and play experiences. Curriculum allowed for a variety of experiences that were observed to pique child interest as well as build cognitive skills, strengthen emotional intelligence, enhance physical coordination, and encourage the use of social graces. During the monitoring visit, routine transitions were observed including clean-up procedures, food service rituals, and quiet nap preparations. On 8/31/2026, staff were observed to be in ratio, utilizing positive redirection when needed and engaged in programming with the children. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be truly enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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The goal of Little Learners Inc "...has been and continues to be modeling Christian character and values before the children, as well as complimenting the training you are providing in the home. We want to provide a homelike environment where the children feel safe and secure along with an academic environment where the children feel free to explore and learn..."

Little Learners Inc has the following website for persons to gain knowledge about the program: http://littlelearnersia.weebly.com/.

Ms. Martin is a local entrepreneur invested in the surrounding community. The management team of Little Learners Inc (e.g. Ms. Martin, Ms. Bascom) remains consistent and organized having noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. The management team is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Martin discussed continuing to have a professional team of staff, some of whom are college students returning during school breaks and summer.

On 8/31/2026, Little Learners Inc was again found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining a parent-staff-program information area, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family programming activities. Family activities have included teacher-family conferences and fall open house. Childcare curriculum uses High Reach curriculum, which is theme based, develop-mentally age appropriate and provides a homelike environment with many enrichment activities. There is also a separate preschool program on-site designed to prepare children for kindergarten readiness. Curriculum additionally incorporates off-site field trip (e.g. pumpkin farm, apply orchard, nature center), on-site guest speaker events (e.g. local library), themed days, and holiday/seasonal parties.

Little Learners Inc continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. On 8/31/2026, management acknowledged how their team of staff continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Ms. Martin discussed the childcare having supports from local businesses, her family and the community.

Little Learners Inc has emergency plans, policies, and procedures that are regularly reviewed and updated as needed. This program has successfully navigated through flooding events, 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, air quality alerts (2023, 2025, 2026), technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and 2026 nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

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

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
- Staff file and ipower profile reviewed (PL, hired 6/25) lacked documentation of completed Essentials training.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please ensure full Iowa record check results are obtained and retained in each staff file (e.g. PL, SW).

Menu noted cereal mix with milk. Ensure cereal mix served meets CACFP guidelines. Also, please ensure any substitutions to the menu are documented as families have the right to know what foods are offered and consumed by their child each day.

If a staff's college courses are being considered for annual childcare professional development hours, please ensure a copy of the staff's transcripts are obtained and placed in his/her respective staff file. The transcript shall include the name of the course(s), dates completed and a note of passing.

Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Please review rules 109.12(1)d and 109.11(2)b which state "...A supervised nap or quiet time for all children under six years of age not enrolled in school who are present at the center for five or more hours...Individual covered mats, beds, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap..." Ensure each child has materials available for nap/quiet rest. Any concern presented about nap time requirements shall be addressed by way of a doctor's note documenting the child's medical condition and how to accommodate (e.g. no quiet rest or nap).

The annual fuel burning appliance inspection was happening on the day of this monitoring visit. Please forward documentation of results to licensing as well as retain the documentation with the center's license paperwork.

Please begin considerations for replacing the swings and outdoor wooden climbing structure which are showing ware. Increase cushion surfacing depth underneath outdoor play equipment.

To help with the items noted in the special recommendation section of this report, please take a look at and apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R (https://www.iowaccrr.org/child-care-providers/iowa-child-care-funding-opportunities/).

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with management oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Management discussed how they are present in the center talking with staff, stepping into rooms with elevated noise levels, encouraging staff to come to management with child behavior concerns, ensuring staff have breaks, offering review of policies at staff meetings, modeling response to child behavior, establishing child specific behavior plans when needed, completing written incident reports and exercising required polices for enrollment and discharge of children as needed. Licensing and management also talked about resources available through the CCR&R behavioral specialist position and our CCNC as well as the local Tanager Place Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program.

The center's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 09/16/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.