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

Name of Center: Little Lambs Preschool-GSLC **Enrollment:** 31 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18036

Street: 1436 21st Ave N **City:** Fort Dodge Iowa **Zip** 50501 **County:** Webster

Mailing Address: 1436 21st Ave N, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Director's Name: Joan Arndt **Phone Number:** 515-576-6308

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jessica Ferry **E-Mail:** littlelambs@goodshepfortdodge.org

Date(s) of Visit: 09-25-2023, 10-05-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-23-2023

Comments :

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			19		19
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-10-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Lambs Preschool on 09-25-23, and again on 10-05-23 where I met with center director Joan Arndt. Joan has been the director of this program since 2003 and is well qualified based on her education, experience, and on-going training. Jessica Ferry is the associate teacher for the program and also has extensive experience, training, and education in early childhood care and education. The program makes use of classroom space on the lower level of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge and is overseen by a board of directors of church members. The program provides preschool programming only serving children 3 years of age. The program partners with the local school district to provide programming for 4 year old children under the statewide preschool grant. The center has two 3 year old sessions and one 4 year old session. There are currently 31 children enrolled between the three sessions. All areas subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. The center makes primary use of a large classroom but has access to a second classroom if needed. Both classrooms were observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to layout or maintenance. Windows along the exterior wall of the primary classroom provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation for the main classroom but the second room is an interior space with no windows. Both rooms have multiple entrances opening on to the main corridor to provide for emergency egress. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Bathrooms are located off the hallway and children are escorted to the bathroom as needed. An additional sink is located in the main classroom to facilitate hand washing.
Both rooms are divided into activity centers through the use of shelving, furniture, and play structures. Activity centers include options such as reading, blocks, dramatic play, math, science, experience tables, art/crafts, and group learning. The equipment and materials in each activity center were appropriate to the ages of the children and in good repair.

A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum are posted in an area readily accessible to visitors on a parent board. A copy of the curriculum is also provided to parents in a newsletter. The center did not have children present at the time of the first visit but did during the second visit. Good interactions were observed with the teachers following the planned schedule and curriculum. This included the children being in three groups with one engaged in self-directed play in one area, Joan doing a small group craft activity, and Jessica leading a group in reading a story with guided question review. The center uses positive behavior management techniques with providing praise, reminders of expected behavior, and redirection.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands a needed. The center does maintain a first aid kit in the classroom, and a smaller kit in an outdoor storage shed on the playground and had materials to address most common first aid needs. There are no children taking any medications, or who have any diagnosed allergies at this time but the center does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. Good cleaning and sanitation policies and practices are in place. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a risk to children are stored in areas where they are not accessible to the children. The teachers wait for the children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided and the children take it in turn to bring

the snack. A list of recommended snack items are provided to parents, and a menu of items that are served is maintained. A small supply of items is maintained on site to supplement if needed to ensure credible snacks are provided. Good food storage practices were observed.

The outdoor playground was observed to be generally in good repair. Pea gavel is used for fall surfacing and had been recently aerated so that there was an adequate depth of loose material. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was in good repair. Shade is provided by mature trees. The playground also has a paved area to provide for riding equipment. The equipment and climbing structures were observed to be in good repair. An outdoor music center was added to the playground during this past year.

A review of administrative records found all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. All child files were reviewed and found be in full compliance with all required documentation. All staff files were reviewed and were in full compliance with all required certificates and documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were current and valid.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This continues to be a very strong program that focuses on curriculum and helping children develop school readiness skills. The center has continued to work to improve the program with adding new experience centers to create an engaging environment for the children.

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

None Cited.

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 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.