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

Name of Center: Little Steps Daycare and BASIC **Enrollment:** 36 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 30097

Street: 206 South D St **City:** Sergeant Bluff Iowa **Zip** 51054 **County:** Woodbury

Mailing Address: 206 South D St, Sergeant Bluff, IA, 51054

Director's Name: Kelly Adams **Phone Number:** 712-943-8790

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kasha Conway **E-Mail:** adamskel@sblschools.com

Date(s) of Visit: 08-21-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-04-2021

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

Date Inspected: 11-23-2021

Comments : The programs capacity has changed due to the school age program being dropped by the school and the YMCA taking over the school age program. Beginning 08-21-23 capacity has changed from 176 to 36. The Little Steps will now serve children ages 6 weeks to preschool.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	15		21		36
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2021 to 12-01-2023
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 08-21-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An licensing visit was made to Little Steps Daycare on 12-05-22. I met with the new onsite supervisor Kasha Conway as Melissa Storm had resigned. And also met with director and principal of the school Kelly Adams. Ms Conway became the onsite supervisor for Little Steps Daycare in August 2022. Ms Conway has six years of experience at the Little Steps Childcare with the center and a vet tech degree. I also met with onsite supervisor Julie Rodgers for the BASIC school age program.

Little Steps Daycare and BASIC is a daycare center and after school program that is located in the Sgt. Bluff Primary school. They utilize 2 rooms for the daycare and 5 rooms for the after school program. The BASIC program operates Monday through Friday 6:30 am to 8:15 am & 3:30 pm- 6:00 pm during the school year. The daycare program operates 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday during the school year. The center uses creative curriculum. Little Steps serves infants through preschool and the BASIC program is TK thru 5th grade. The center is locked therefore staff must let you into the building.

There are 120 children enrolled in the Basic school age program and 27 children enrolled in the childcare program. 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. Given the current corona-virus pandemic, a time was spent on discussing how the center is managing. The center is following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys.

The childcare program has put in new carpet, toilet and added music and movement to their program.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Refrigerators are clean. Good food storage practices were observed. The center participates in the federal food program. The kitchen is not accessible to the children. The center provides breakfast and snacks for the child care and lunch is provided by Aggies Restaurant. Menus were posted. The school provides breakfast and the center provides afternoon snack for the school age program.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is administered by the school nurse. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon testing is completed. The boiler inspection is completed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Cleaning products had been accessible to children in the childcare area. These need to be put away to where children do not have access.

Center playground
Playground is located next to the center. The school age children utilize the school playground. The playground has rubber pads or shredded rubber around the swings, slides and climbing equipment. The playground has slides, swings and climbing equipment. Monthly playground inspection completed. Shade is available on the playground. The childcare program does

have access to the school gym if unable to go outside.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Filed Trips
The center uses school buses for transporting the children for field trips.

The center's discipline practices consist of redirection, encouraging appropriate behavior and PBIS.

Goals of the childcare program is looking at using the Playground app for parents. To add more preschool activities and STEM. The program may be interested in the IQ4K program.

Strengths of the program is that both programs work have a good relationship with the families that they serve. Staff work well as a team.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Program is kid friendly and are positive with the kids.

The program rooms look good and have a fun variety of age appropriate toys and equipment.

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

109.9(1)e: 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.
Number not in compliance: 5

109.9(2)d: All files contain parent authorization of the persons to whom the child may be released.
Number not in compliance: 6

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

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.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Program will email consultant by 01-15-23 confirming that all items that are below standards have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

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.