Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Our Savior Little Lambs Day Care

Provider No.: 29420

Address: 301 3rd Street N, Swea City, IA, 50590

County: Kossuth

Director's Name: Malloree Jorgensen

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5152724696

E-Mail: littlelambs@ringtelco.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/05/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2026 to 10/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/21/2023

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	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	5:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	5:30 AM to 6:00 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	12	8	5	5	30
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced visit was made to Our Saviour Little Lambs Day Care on 08-05-26 where I met with the center director, Malloree Jorgensen. Malloree has been the director of the center since 2021 and is well qualified for the position based on her experience, education, and on-going training in early childhood care. The center is located in a commercial store front building located in the business district of Swea City. The program is operated as a non-profit entity overseen by a board of directors through Our Saviour Lutheran Church. The program provides full range child care serving infants through school age children. Due to limitations of the physical facilities this program has operated as a two room program since it's inception with toddlers through school age children combined in a single classroom under an exception to policy that has been granted on an on-going basis. There are approximately 35 children enrolled in the center served by 4 staff and a volunteer.

The physical facilities and general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as identified in prior reports. The center has a long open floor plan with a small room that serves as an office space. The programming space is divided into two areas by a centrally located kitchen space which is defined by counters. The space at the back of the building is used for infant programming and is further separated by mobile barriers and a gate. The front of the building is used for the combined age groups of 2 year olds through school age children. A large store front window is located at the front of the building which provides natural light and a view but no ventilation. Additional windows are located at the rear of the building in the infant room which also provide natural light and a view, but which can also be opened to provide ventilation. Additional exits provide direct egress to the playground at the mid point of the building, and another exit providing direct access to a side street from the infant area. The exit from the infant room was observed to have one door that had an installed safety strap, and a deadbolt lock that were engaged. The fire marshal did provide direction that the strap needs to be removed, and deadbolts disengaged when the building is occupied. Restrooms are located off the main programming

space, and a diapering station is present in the infant area with a hand washing sink also being present. An additional changing station is present in one of the restrooms and the changing pad in that area had a torn cover which needs to be replaced. Activity centers are created through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged along the edges of the classrooms. There are areas of limited sight lines in the preschool space with an activity center in a corner that cannot be seen when staff are in the kitchen area, or making use of the area where tables are present. There is also a tall coat cubby that defines an area for children to hang coats and other materials at the front of the building which creates an area where children would not be visible to staff. The center is aware of these areas of reduced line of sight and staff were observed to position themselves to address this.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Interactions and Curriculum
The center had no infants under 24 months of age attending on the day of the visit so all children were initially combined in the main programming space. Later when moving to teacher lead group circle time activities the younger 2-3 year old children were separated out to a group making use of the infant room space. While the center did not have a copy of the lesson plan posted they did move through a presentation and schedule that included a focus on specific hard learning concepts of identified letters and numbers, had a prepared bible verse lesson, and completed a planned craft activity. It has been previously reviewed and again a reminder is made that a copy of the prepared lesson plan does need to be posted where it is available for review. Good interactions were generally observed on the day of the visit. During self-directed free play activities much of the staff supervision was observational rather than engaged and interactive. This did lead to situations where much of the behavior management approach was reactive and teachers using stern and frustrated tones. At other times when presenting specific lessons the staff used calm and positive tones. Ratio was maintained as required by age with 3 teachers present with 10 children. During the visit Mallory did identify that she would be taking 5 children to the city pool. It was reviewed that licensing does allow a single staff member to engage in off site activities with 5 or fewer children on their own but a reminder was provided that a second staff member would be required when there are 6 or more children.

Health and Safety
Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit. There were no children attending that required diapering and staff did assist those with toileting as needed. Changing stations were present in the infant room, and one of the restrooms where the changing pad had tears in the waterproof cover and needs to be replaced. Children were reminded to wash their hands before meals and after using the restroom. First aid kits are present and taken as a whole the center does have the materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners, medications, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible. Cribs and cots were available for all children and had appropriate bedding.

Playground
The center has an attached playground space with a paved area, and an area with a climbing structure that uses pea gravel for fall surfacing. The pea gravel is insufficient due to having developed a hard pan layer, and infiltration by vegetation. There was a small preschool climber present, but most of the materials present were ground play options of dramatic play, trucks, balls, and riding equipment. Many of the items were showing their age but none needed to be disposed of immediately. Shade is provided by a large mature tree. The playground is encompassed by fencing, and buildings.

Nutrition
The center does have a kitchen space and meals are prepared on-site. Good storage practices were observed for refrigerated items but several dry pantry items were not placed in air tight sealable food grade containers as required once the original packaging seal had been broken. The center did not have a prepared menu, and many of the food items present would not be considered credible as required by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This included options such as sugary cereals, cookies, chips, and candy. All centers are required to follow the guidelines of the CACFP even if they do not participate in that program for reimbursement. While centers can provide non-credible items on special occasions these cannot be part of the on-going and regular menu. Good food preparation and service practices were observed on the day of the visit.

Administration
In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted. A review of child files was conducted and the center is using a combination of electronic, and hard copy files with information maintained in different locations such as file folders, notebooks, and note cards. This resulted in it being very difficult to access various elements for each child and was

compounded by the fact that the computer with the electronic files was not present at the center. The center did have access to emergency contact information for each child but physicals could not be found for many of the children. All staff files were reviewed and background checks were an issue. Iowa SING background checks had expired for 2 staff, one new employee had a check that did not have the date the record was completed though the employee had a start date in December 2025. Malloree also identified that the center had a volunteer that helps at the center but is not left alone with children who had no file information. It was reviewed that while volunteers would not have to complete all required trainings for employment they would still need a background check if being left alone with children, providing direct care activities, or being counted in ratio. Inspection logs and certificates also could not be located for Radon Testing, and Fuel Burning Appliance inspections. Radon testing had been attempted by the center but resulted in No Reading due to rejected samples. Malloree reported that the furnace had recently been serviced but she could not find documentation and provided contact information for the vendor.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(1): Written policies on: Enrollment and discharge. Field trips and non-center activities. Discipline/Behavior/Biting. Nutrition. Health and safety policies. Transportation if applicable. Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center. Protecting children's confidentiality.
-- Required written policies were missing or needed to be expanded for Field Trips, Nutrition (immunization exemption, response plans), Incident Reporting, Biting, Access, Confidentiality, and Emergency Plans.

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Two files had expired Iowa SING background checks. -- CORRECTED

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
-- Two new employees, and one volunteer did not have documentation of background checks being submitted prior to hire.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Documentation of child physicals could not be located for several files either due to documentation not being provided, or due to the center file management system.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must:Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water.Include safe play equipment and an area of shade.Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic.
-- The fall surfacing of the outdoor playground space has developed a hard pan layer. Children shall be restricted from use of climbing structures and other toys intended to elevate children from the ground that require fall surfacing until such time that verification is provided that the fall surfacing has been aerated or supplemented to ensure the proper depth of loose fill material as required by the CPSC PUblic Playground Safety Handbook (https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325_PublicPlaygroundSafetyHandbook2025_7-30-25_1.pdf?VersionId=tpCoaKp.DSdJ0QmD4_29kwEHeQgFphM2)

109.11(8)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Documentation of current radon testing was not present. Prior testing resulted in No Result reports due to rejected samples.

109.11(8)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon

monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
-- Documentation of annual fuel burning appliance inspections could not be located on the day of the visit.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
-- A copy of a menu planned at least 1 week in advance was not present on the day of the visit. Many of the food stores observed also included options such as sugary cereals, cookies, and other items that would not be considered credible. The morning snack served on the day of the visit consisted of crackers and water. Snacks must include two credible food items and while water should always be readily available it is not considered a credible food option.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves.
-- Dry pantry items were not stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after the original packaging seal had been broken as required. Packaging was left open, or rolled closed which would allow it to be an attractant to insect or rodents, and susceptible to spoilage.

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

Verification was provided that background checks had been updated for all staff by 08-06-26.

A service referral has been made to CCR&R and Public Health to assist the center in completing radon testing. A call was made to the provider identified as servicing the center HVAC system to request confirmation of service but no return call has been received. The center will need to continue to follow-up with that vendor to obtain the necessary documentation of annual inspection and service.

Malloree stated she would notify parents to obtain physicals for those children that needed them. A copy of a sample School Age Statement of health was sent to the center.

A list of required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided to the center.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended 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.

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: Documentation was provided that the center had completed Radon Testing on 08-24-26 and had measured results of 2.3 pCi/L which is below the cutoff limit of 4.0. The center does not have a mitigation system and will not need to renew testing for 5 years.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 9/14/2026 12:31:28 PM

Date: 08/10/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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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**.