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

Name of Center: Little Rascals Preschool & Daycare **Enrollment:** 47 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50152

Street: 400 1st AVE SE **City:** Le Mars Iowa **Zip** 51031 **County:** Plymouth

Mailing Address: 400 1st AVE SE, LeMars, IA, 51031

Director's Name: Amber Hanson **Phone Number:** 712-541-6650

On-Site Supervisor(s): Whitney Zenk-Holtgreve **E-Mail:** littlerascalslemars@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-12-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-04-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-12-2024

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

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

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2025 to 03-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 02-13-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 02-05-24 and spoke with Amber Hanson director. Whitney Zenk-Holtgreve is the new onsite-supervisor as Nicki Rolling - onsite supervisor had resigned. Ms Hanson has a degree in elementary education with a early childhood endorsement. She had done in home childcare for 4 years. She also worked for 7 years with the headstart program. Little Rascals Preschool and Childcare is located at the previous St. George's Preschool which is located in one room of St George's Episcopal Church in LeMars. The center operates Monday thru Friday 7:00am-5:30pm. The preschool program is part of the Statewide Preschool Voluntary Program(SWVPP). They provide childcare before and after preschool. The center serves children ages 3 years to age 10 years old. The preschool has 3 rooms, 3 yr old room, 3/4year old preschool and 4/5year old preschool room. The school agers use the 4/5 year old preschool room when present. Capacity was is 33.

There are 47 children enrolled in the program. There were 14-4 year old SWVPP and 13 in the 3/4 year old preschool program and 6 in the 3yr old room. At the time of the visit there were only 14 children in the building. The center continues in cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum and Gold assessments. The program put in a washer/dryer hook up as well as dishwasher hook. The program had added a ramp for exit of the 3 year old preschool room. Center is using the Bright Wheel app to help with administrative activities as well as to communicate with parents.

The program has purchased the whole building form the church. They are hoping to renovate the church sanctuary part to include a couple of classrooms, a large motor room, and a couple of bathrooms. They are wanting to have the school agers to have their own space and to possible serve 2 year olds. Their goal is to have drawings and renovations to start yet this spring.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Snacks are provided by the center. The center follows the food guidelines but are not currently on the food program. Food storage is appropriate. The Center follows the CACFP guidelines.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children, however at this time they have no children with food allergies or that need any medications. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test was completed, however, the results contiue to be very high. Program needs to contact a mitigator to help develop a plan to get the radon within normal range asap. The program has a mitigation system, however, it must not be working due to the high levels remaining. Radon will need to be monitored ongoing to ensure readings remain within normal range once this has been addressed. Annual heating inspection was completed. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a fenced grassy area for their playground. They would like to continue to add to the playground.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trip
Center does not transport. Field trips for the preschool only would use the school bus to transport or they may walk to various businesses or park.
Reminder when leaving the building that staff need to be in ratio plus one extra staff. Even when walking to children to and from school. Director is still wanting to have the school drop children off at corner of the center building and is working with one of the principals to hopefully make this happen. Otherwise staff have to walk a block to get kids off the bus.

Strength of the program are that staff work great as a team, they have support of the school system, as well a good relationship/communication with the children and families they serve.

Goals of the center are to do renovations to the church santuarys since buying the whole church, update their playground. The center is working on getting on IQ4K program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center sends home a monthly newsletter to the parents. The center also uses Bright Wheel app to communicate with families.

Center does conferences 2x year.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Center has child size furniture throughout the area.

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

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(7)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.
Radon remains high and program needs to contact a mitigator to correct.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mitigation information was sent to director 02-13-25. It is recommended to continue to work with CCRR for support.

Please email consultant by 03-15-25 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

*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.