

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

Name of Center: Allison Little Lambs Child Care **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46013

Street: 721 Cherry St **City:** Allison Iowa **Zip** 50602 **County:** Butler

Mailing Address: 721 Cherry St, Allison, IA, 50602

Director's Name: Teresa Lehman **Phone Number:** 319-267-2242

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** allisonlittlambs@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-03-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** NA

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

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

Date Inspected: 09-22-2021

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accreditation: 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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>		<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>	
LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	14	8	8	38
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	FULL license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury

Date: 11-27-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Allison Little Lambs Child Care in Allison on 11-03-23 where I met with center director Teresa Lehman. Theresa took over as the director of this program in June of 2022 and is well qualified for the position having a Bachelor degree in Elementary Education, a degree in Business Administration, and extensive experience in child care. The program operates out of a free standing building and has been in operation since 2015. The program is operated as a non-profit entity overseen by a board of directors. The child care center operates Monday through Friday from 5:45 am until 6:00 pm serving infants through school-age. There are approximately 30 children currently enrolled in the program served by 6 staff. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the center and classrooms remains the same as observed in prior visits. The center utilizes three classrooms established by age for infants, toddlers, and preschool and school-aged children. Each room was observed to be clean with a few minor issues related to maintenance. Most were of a minor nature such as loose hardware on cabinet doors which did not pose an immediate concern. One issue that was identified to Theresa as needing immediate attention was the hot water temperature settings which were measured to be 130 deg. F. at the spigot. The maximum allowed temperature at the spigot for sinks used for hand washing is 120 deg. F. The center either needs to lower the temperature of the hot water heater, or install mechanical options such as mixer valves to sinks to reduce the of burns due to hot water. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. Each room has a direct exit to the exterior for emergency egress. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened freely and easily.

Each classroom has bathroom facilities directly off the programming space so that children do not need to leave the room, and additional restroom facilities are located off main corridors. The infant room and toddler room also have diaper changing stations present in the room. Each room has additional sinks in the room that allow for hand washing, and separate sinks that can be used for food preparation related activities. The program has a basement which is used as an emergency shelter. Classrooms are arranged to create activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures. The arrangement was such that it did not create any blind areas and provided the children with room to move and play.

While each classroom has basic activity center options of large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading, older classrooms also incorporation options such as dramatic play, group learning, experience tables, media, and math/science. The toddler room did have a small climbing structure present in the room. While indoor climbing structures are not subject to the same regulations as outdoor playground equipment the staff do need to ensure that they read and follow the manufacturer directions regarding the installation and use of the product. The toys and materials present were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Television media centers have been attached using wall mount systems. A copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were present in each classroom, and also posted on the parent notice board.

Good interactions were observed in each classroom with the teachers being actively engaged with the children attending to their needs. The teachers did follow the planned schedules with moving through activities of outdoor play, small group teacher lead activities, and individual free choice play. The teachers were using positive behavior management approaches during the time of the visit that included recognition of positive behavior/praise, reminders of expected behavior, and

redirection. The preschool classroom also made good use of transition activities that supported the learning environment by asking the children questions in an entertaining activity related to the learning focus of the curriculum.

The center does have an attached playground which is fully enclosed by chain link fencing. The playground is divided into two areas with one for infants and toddlers, and one for older preschool and school age children. The playground area for the older children has undergone significant renovation since the time of the last visit. The geodesic dome and wooden climbing structure have been removed and new commercial grade structure has been installed. Rubber mulch is now used for fall surfacing and a good depth of material was present. A paved riding track was installed which is also used to contain the fall surfacing. The raised garden center has been renovated by removing dirt and replacing it with sand to create a raised digging/sand play area. In the toddler area there is a small area that uses foam tiles for fall surfacing. Many of the items that were being stored in that area had been removed and Theresa stated that there are plans to continue renovations in that area. Shade is provided by a constructed shelter cover.

The center has a full kitchen and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the planned menu was posted and the meals being served were consistent with what was planned. Good food storage and handling practices were observed in the kitchen and classrooms. Meals are served in the classrooms with the teachers portioning the meals for the children and providing supervision at the tables.

While the center has established health and safety practices in place some practices do need to be reviewed. I was able to observe several diaper changes during the time of the visit. During one the teacher did not deglove between handling soiled and clean materials, and did not wash the infant's hands following the diapering. During another the teacher gave the child a tube of diaper cream to hold despite the product being labeled as, "Keep Out Of The Reach Of Children". Staff also need to ensure that all over the counter medications are labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belongs. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and stocked with items necessary to address most common first aid needs though some needed to be replenished. Safe Sleep practice were followed on the day of my visit. During the visit one infant was observed to have pacifier with teething beads present which the staff did remove when it was identified as being a potential choking hazard.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to all parents and visitors. The center did have an a self-audit for child files which was found to be accurate when compared to a random selection of files. The center a combination of an electronic file management system and hard copy file records. Theresa does maintain a self-audit system to identify what elements are present and what is expired for both child and staff files. A random selection of 20% of the child files were reviewed. The review did find that the records did contain all required information with the exception of 2 that needed an initial or updated physical. All staff files were reviewed and generally found to contain all required information with the exception of 3 that needed documentation of the required FBI Background Checks, and one employee where the background check was incomplete needed a Record Check Evaluation. The center does have a small bus for transportation services and maintenance records were available. The required inspection logs and certificates for Fuel Burning Appliances, and Radon were not available at the time of the visit. Fire and Tornado Evacuation Drills has not been logged since February of 2023. It was reviewed that these are required to be conducted and logged each month.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

As noted the center has completed a major renovation of the playground used by the preschool and school age children, and is working to complete renovations to the infant/toddler area as well.

Theresa identified that the center does have a very strong group of staff who have been working to implement a strong focus on the development and implementation of curriculum and learning activities.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.

-- Number not in compliance: 3

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: 2

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

-- Documentation of emergency drills not logged for fire or tornado since February 2023.

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.

-- Hot water temperatures shall not exceed 120 deg. F. as measured at the spigot for sinks used for hand washing.

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.

-- Documentation not found on the day of the visit. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.11(7)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 not found on the day of the visit. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes. Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.

-- Staff did not deglove between handling soiled and clean items. Staff did not wash infant's hands following diapering. Children allowed to hold items labeled as keep out of reach of children (diaper cream) during changing.

V. 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.

*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.