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

Name of Center: Albert City After School Club **Enrollment:** 18 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 46328

Street: 300 Orchard St **City:** Albert City Iowa **Zip** 50510 **County:** Buena Vista

Mailing Address: PO Box 98, Albert City, IA, 50510

Director's Name: Ashley Dirks (principal) **Phone Number:** 712-843-5416

On-Site Supervisor(s): Deb Falkena (lead teacher) **E-Mail:** adirks@albertct.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 02-13-2024

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: 09-07-2022

Comments :

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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				24	24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2024 to 02-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-26-2024

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Albert City After School program on 02-13-24 where I met with school principal and center director Ashley Dirks. Deb Falkena is the lead teacher/program supervisor but has stepped back in terms of sharing that role with several other staff who rotate the days they are there as the lead teacher. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold based on their experience, education and training in early childhood education. Deb began with the program in 2015, and Ashley took over the director role in 2022. The program is located in and operated by the elementary school in Albert City. The program provides after school programming for the school age children only. There are approximately 18 children attending the after school program on a regular basis but it is available to all students who attend the school. There are 6 teachers that work with the program and there are always at least two teachers present in the classroom. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The afterschool program remains much the same as in prior visits both in terms of layout/design, and daily operation. The after school program is located primarily in one classroom that was previously used as a computer lab but also has access to other areas such as the gymnasium and library. The room has windows along the exterior wall that provides ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The after school room has a secondary exit accessing a short hallway and another classroom. Bathrooms and hand washing facilities are located off the main hallway from the classroom. Supervision is provided for children using the restroom for the after school program which is a single occupancy bathroom located across the hall from the classroom. The classroom was observed to be clean with no issues noted due to design or maintenance. The room is a large open space divided into activity centers through the use of furniture, play structures, and low shelves. The arrangement is such that it does not create any blind areas. The equipment was observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages the children attending.

The available activity centers include tables for use with craft activities, board games, and a completion of homework. Other center options include library, dramatic play, Legos, and blocks. A copy of the daily schedule was not posted on the day of the visit. Deb did identify that it is normally present but it appeared that someone had removed it and she would get a new one posted. The program uses a monthly theme approach to define a general learning concept. The general theme for the month of February was Valentines. Despite the schedule not being posed the program did follow a schedule with the children arriving, doing restroom breaks, engaging in a teacher lead group activity of reading a story, and then engaging in individual choice activity center play. Ratio was maintained as required and as noted the program always has 2 teachers present. One issue that was noted during the visit was that the teachers requested that one of the children take some items to the school office. While a teacher did step into the hallway to maintain visual observation of the child a better option would have been for the teacher to either walk with the child, or take the items themselves.

Good health and safety practices were observed. Staff do ensure that the children wash their hands prior to eating and following restroom use, and hand sanitizer is also available in the classroom. The hand sanitizer is stored where it is accessible but use can be monitored by the teachers. Chemical cleaners and other items that could pose a safety risk are stored in areas where they are not readily accessible. First aid kits are maintained in the classrooms and the program has access to the school office and nurse for both additional supplies and support. Medications are not routinely administered due to the limited hours of operation but the program does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future.

The center does maintain emergency response plans for those children that have identified allergies and on-going health issues. Copies were maintained in the classroom where the teachers would have access but confidentiality could also be maintained.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not prepared but snacks are provided. Snacks are typically prepackaged items such as crackers and are stored in the classroom. Good food storage and handling practices were observed for both dry pantry and refrigerated food items. The majority of snack items are single serving options. Items packaged in bulk were properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers once the original packaging seal had been broken. The center does identify snack items typically offered and maintains a calendar of those items actually served.

The program makes use of the school playground which has a variety of climbing structures, paved areas, and grassy areas where the children can play. The equipment was found to be in good repair. The climbing structures use turf over loose fill material for fall surfacing which also covers a majority of the playground space. The after school program tends to make more use of the school gymnasium and a large motor skill room than the outdoor playground.

All required notices were posted in an area readily visible to parents and visitors. A review of child files found all required information to be current and present in each file. All staff files were reviewed and each contained all required documentation. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ashely identified that the program has had several updates that include a new secure entry door near the classroom for parental pick-up with a camera that allows staff to verify the identity of visitors. The program has also acquired new equipment and materials for the classroom.

Ashley stated that a local business, Velero, has been very supportive of the program hosting several fund raising event and other special activities and then donating the proceeds to the after school program.

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

None Cited.

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.