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

Name of Center: Albert City After School Club **Enrollment:** 30 **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: 02-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 09-07-2021

Comments :

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

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

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 02-01-2020 to 02-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-09-2023

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 02-07-23 where I met with school principal and center director Ashley Dirks. Deb Falkena is the lead teacher/program supervisor but was not in on the day of my visit. 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 discontinued the limited daycare to preschool children when implementing full day preschool at the start of the 2022 school year, and now only provides after school programming for the school age children. There approximately 30 children attending the after school program on a regular basis but it is available to all students who attend the school. There are 5 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. The after school program is located primarily in one classroom that was previously used as a computer lab. The program also has access to other areas such as the gymnasium, library, and large motor skills room. 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 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 is posted and the program uses a monthly theme approach to define a general learning concept. The general theme for the month of February was Hearts While the general focus of the program is provide children with an opportunity to finish homework, or engage in other self-directed interets having the general theme does allow the center to rotate materials to provide new experiences and support the them. This was exemplified by one child that was engaged in cutting harts for a craft project. Good interactions were observed on the day of my visit.

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 for use as needed. 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. 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 but these are maintained in the school office. Copies should also be kept in the classroom where they would be readily accessible to the staff.

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 center does identify snack items typically offered and maintains a calendar of those items actually served.

The daycare program makes limited 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 generally found to be in good repair but Ashley did note that one tire swing was broken and waiting on parts for repair. Several set screws of various railings and climbing poles were loose and allowed a small amount of movement. While not presenting an immediate safety concern these should be tightened. One climbing structure makes use of foam tiles for fall surfacing, and the other climbing structures use turf over loose fill material. The after school program tends to make more use of the school gymnasium and a large motor skill room.

The required notices were posted in an area readily visible to parents and visitors with the exception of the Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter notice. It is noted that this notice was present in the room previously used for the wrap around daycare program but this needs to be moved to the after school room given that the daycare programming is no longer provided. A review of child files found all required information to be current and present in each file reviewed. All staff files were reviewed and each had at least one missing element with the most common issues being missing/expired physicals, and staff who had not completed the required training with the first 90 days of employment. In addition it was noted that two recent employees had background checks that were completed by a commercial vendor rather than the Iowa Single Point of Repository (SING) system. Those background checks need to be renewed using that system. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current though Ashley acknowledged that she was unaware monthly fire and tornado drills were required but that they had begun doing them in January of this year. It was noted that the center does need to ensure that evacuation notices are posted by all exits from the classroom and include written and diagram instructions for both fire and tornado.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program does have a strong focus on providing both an engaging learning environment, and opportunity for the children to have a less structured self-directed experience. One excellent approach to providing learning is that the center will have the older children read a story to the group each day, and then ask the other children questions about the story. This approach is an excellent option to help older children build their reading skills, younger children build their comprehension skills, and foster strong social skills and connections that can help to reduce behavioral concerns.

The center is also participating in the Quality Rating Scales program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is currently rated a 4 STAR program out of a possible 5 STAR scale.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

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: 2 Background checks had been conducted using a commercial vendor rather then the Iowa SING system.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

-- 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.
-- Evacuation notices were not posted by all exits and did not contain both written and diagram instructions for fire and tornado. Documentation of practice of emergency drills for both fire and tornado conducted monthly was not available on the day of my visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.