Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Lil' Cubs

Provider No.: 18046

Address: 1120 S G AVE, Nevada, IA, 50201

County: Story

Director's Name: Amy Coogler/Abbigail Buttry

On-Site Supervisor: Mariya Mennes

Phone Number: 5153823333

E-Mail: lilcubschildcare@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/15/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 11/17/2023

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 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	59	27	56	50	192
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

After being an in-home provider for years, Amy Coogler started a licensed preschool program in 2006. She saw there was a need for a child care center and was able to remodel a church and opened Lil Cubs Childcare on Sept. 8, 2014. Amy meets the requirements to be director. Abbigail Buttry is the co-director. Abbigail has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Human Services and she worked at this daycare center for two years prior to becoming co-director. Mariya Mennes is the on site supervisor. Hours of operation are 6:00 am-6:00 pm. They serve infants through school age children.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Handwashing posters are in place. Diaper changing posters are in place. Classrooms have their schedules posted. Classrooms have current lesson plans posted. Some classrooms had a newsletter posted. The center writes a quarterly newsletter also. The center uses Creative Curriculum for lesson planning. The center uses Smart Care as an app.

Amy and Abby assisted with today's visit. The center has two infant classrooms, the Little Lambs (younger infants) and Cuddle Bugs (older infants). Little Lambs had seven infants present There were two staff working with this class. There were four infants in the Cuddle Bugs. Two staff were working in this room. The Tiny Turtles (1's) had seven children present. There were two staff working in this room. The Lil' Ducklings (1's) had four children present. One staff was working in this classroom. Friendly Frogs (2's) had seven children in attendance. Two staff were working with this group. Busy Bees (2's/3's) had eleven children present. Two staff were working with this class. Honey Bears (3's) had twelve children present. Two staff were working with these children. The Wallabies (4/5's) had twelve children present. Two staff were working in this room. The Joeys (4's) had fourteen children present. Two staff were working in this class. The

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Monkeys had eleven children present. Two staff were working with this age group.
Children were observed in the classrooms and some were observed outdoors. Children were observed having snack, during child directed play and learning activities. Children were playing within interest areas, doing art/craft activities, making Christmas ornaments, reading books individually and as a group. Staff were playing alongside children and assisting children with their activities.

The center serves morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The center has a full kitchen. Menus were reviewed and showed compliance with CACFP requirements. Lunch served today was chex mix, cucumbers and water.

The center has a fenced in playground. The center documents monthly playground checks.

The center owns two fifteen passenger vans. The center uses the vans for off site field trips and school transportation.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center participates in IQ4K and has a one star rating. The center has security video cameras. The center was voted #1 2025 Daycare for the Story County Community's Choice Award. The center has several long tenured staff.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There were no licensing violations cited during today's visit.

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

NA

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The center has a full license.

This worker talked to management about recommendations for the Little Lambs classroom (young infants class). There were eight restrictive containers in the class, including swings, bouncy seats, excersaucers. This worker observed five infants in devices during the visit at one time. This worker suggested several containers be removed from the classroom as this classroom has a capacity of eight. Management said staff didn't keep infants in the devices longer than ten minutes at a time but there wasn't specifications for a day.
There are several reasons the use of these devices should be not used or they be used very limited in daycare settings. This worker sent information to the owner for her and the staff to review. This worker also recommended a consultation and some training visits with CCR&R be arranged, to assist staff move towards offering more tummy time and other early education opportunities for that classroom.

Amy told this worker that the two swings had been removed from the classroom after the visit.

Date: 12/21/2025

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HHS Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson

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**.