Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Lambs Preschool-GSLC

Provider No.: 18036

Address: 1436 21st Ave N, Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

County: Webster

Director's Name: Joan Arndt

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5155766308

E-Mail: littlelambs@goodshepfortdodge.org

HHS Visit Date: 09/08/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/03/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesday		8:15 AM to 11:15 AM	
Wednesday		12:00 PM to 3:00 PM	
Thursday		8:15 AM to 11:15 AM	
Friday		8:15 AM to 11:15 AM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			19		19
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Lambs Preschool on 09-15-25, and again on 09-17-25 to observe the program in operation as children were not present on the day of the initial visit. I met with center director Joan Arndt on both occasions. Joan has been the director of this program since 2003 and is well qualified based on her education, experience, and on-going training. The program makes use of classroom space on the lower level of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge and is overseen by a board of directors of church members. The program provides formal preschool programming only serving children 3 years and 4 years of age. The center has one 3 year old session and one 4 year old session. The program partners with the local school district to provide programming for 4 year old children under the statewide preschool grant which operated under the oversight of the Department of Education. The 3 year old preschool program is operated under the oversight of DHHS. There are currently 17 children enrolled between the two sessions with 9 attending the 3 year old program. All areas subject to licensing standards were reviewed during this visit.

The general layout and design of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior reports. The center makes primary use of a single classroom, but has made use of an additional classroom in the past. The facilities were observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to layout or maintenance. Windows along the exterior wall of the primary classroom provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation for the main classroom. The classroom has multiple entrances opening on to the main corridor to provide for emergency egress. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Bathrooms are located off the main corridor and children are escorted to the bathroom as needed. An additional sink is located in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. The classroom is divided into activity centers through the use of shelving, furniture, and play structures which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas. There are some limited sight lines both from the physical design and the classroom arrangement. From a physical design the space has a large open archway that connects what appears to have been a previously separate room and

depending on positioning there is space on either side of the opening where a child may seek to engage in unobserved activity. The other limited sight line is created from an elevated loft play structure where again depending on positioning could limit line of sight of children. Joan is well aware of these issues and does actively seek to position herself and assistants so that children are within line of sight at all times. The equipment and materials in each activity center were appropriate to the ages of the children and in good repair.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Programming & Interaction:
A copy of the planned curriculum was not posted but Joan had developed a lesson plan and was observed to present planned learning activities.
Staff were engaged with the child both presenting planned teacher lead activities, and joining the children in self-directed play.
Both staff had very calm and positive demeanors when interacting with the children.
The center uses proactive positive behavior supports of reminders, praise, and redirection to promote appropriate behavior choices.
Ratio was maintained as required by age with staff maintaining direct line of sight interaction at all times.

Health & Safety:
Staff and children washed their hands as required after restroom use, prior to snack service, and other times they became soiled.
Staff provided supervision, and hand-over-hand assistance as needed to ensure effective handwashing.
Tables were sanitized before and after meal service using approved sanitizing agents.
Chemical cleaners, personal belongings, first-aid kits, and other items that could pose a risk to children were stored inaccessible to children.
Due to limited hours of operation medications are not administered.
The center maintains a first aid kit necessary to address common injuries, and the church maintains additional supplies and materials such as an AED device to address more serious concerns.

Nutrition:
Parents rotate providing snacks and given a list of recommended credible items with a menu of what was served maintained.
Refrigeration is available for those items that require maintaining cold holding temperatures.
Dry pantry items were properly stored either being single serving, or placed in sealed containers.
Supervision was provided at the table when children were eating.

Playground:
The playground is enclosed by fencing which was in good repair.
All climbing structures, toys, and equipment were in good repair.
Fall surfacing consists of pea grave which was aerated to maintain proper depth of loose fill material.
Shade is provided by adjacent mature trees.

Administration:
All required notices for Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting, Consultant Contact, No Smoking, and the License Certificate were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors.
Other required notices for emergency evacuation, emergency numbers, hand washing, and the planned schedule were present.
All child files were reviewed and found be in full compliance with all required documentation.
All staff files were reviewed and were in full compliance with all required certificates and documentation.
All inspection logs and certificates were current and valid.
The center Parent Handbook was reviewed and some required policies needed to be added or updated.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(1): Written policies on: Enrollment and discharge. Field trips and non-center activities. Discipline/Behavior/Biting.

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Nutrition. Health and safety policies. Transportation if applicable. Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center. Protecting children's confidentiality.
-- Policies need to be added or expanded to include all required element for Discharge, Health & Safety (notice of major/minor injury, medications, handwashing, response plans), Incident Reports, Staff Orientation & Training, Confidentiality.

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

A copy of all required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided to the center.

The center had completed retesting of Radon levels which were identified as being slightly elevated in the prior report and the renewed testing showed levels to be within acceptable limits.

5. 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.

Date: 09/10/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.