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

Name of Center: Redeemer Lutheran Little Lambs Preschool **Enrollment:** 29 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 34234

Street: 2001 W Bremer Ave **City:** Waverly Iowa **Zip** 50677 **County:** Bremer

Mailing Address: 2001 W Bremer Ave, Waverly, IA, 50677

Director's Name: Susie Steege **Phone Number:** 319-352-1325

On-Site Supervisor(s): Susie Steege **E-Mail:** littlelambs@redeemerwaverly.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-05-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-01-2022

Comments : Compliance on 11/21/22

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **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 X Preschool-Age 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	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-25-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/05/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Redeemer Lutheran Little Lambs Preschool in Waverly. The preschool has been in operation since August 2000. I met with Susie Steege, the director and teacher for the program. Ms. Steege was hired in August 2010. She has a BA in elementary education with an endorsement in early childhood education. Lora Schipper is the assistant teacher in the classroom. She started in August 2022.

The preschool is in Redeemer Lutheran Church. The preschool serves children who are three through five years old. The program operates Monday through Friday from 8:30-11:30 am. Children can either attend the program on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Tuesday and Thursday or Monday through Friday. There are 29 children enrolled. The preschool has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 07/31/24.

The preschool operates out of five rooms. One room is where the parent board is located and where the children hang their coats and backpacks. There are two adult sinks in this area. A step is present so the children can use the sinks to wash their hands. Handwashing procedures were posted. A separate room is used for snack. There are two rooms where the children enjoy centers and a large space where children have their main classroom.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, computers, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, woodworking, puppets, Play-Doh, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

The preschool uses a teacher-made curriculum, which is faith based. The teachers focus on kindergarten readiness. The mission statement reads, "To provide a caring Christian atmosphere for the nurturance and growth of young children enhancing their spiritual, social/emotional, physical, and academic readiness skills." Activities are based on monthly themes. The children also learn a Bible verse each month. The program works off a two-year curriculum. Assessment sheets are sent home to parents in September and November. A report card is sent home in February and May and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled during the month of May.

The preschool has use of two bathrooms in the main classroom area. Each bathroom has one toilet and there is a sink outside the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the hall outside the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in March 2022 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector is in the hallway and outside of the entrance to the preschool. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/01/22, with compliance on 11/21/22.

Snacks and drinks are furnished by parents. The preschool provides the parents with a list of appropriate snacks that meet the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) guidelines. The center is prepared to supplement the snack if necessary. The snacks are recorded by the center and were available for review. Dishes are put through the dishwasher in the church kitchen. The center uses a refrigerator located in the snack room and a thermometer was present. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Allergies were posted in the snack room.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the tables.

The preschool has a fenced in playground. Woodchips are used for fall surface cushioning. New mulch was recently added. There is a balance beam, swings and climbing equipment that has slides and other activities. There is a bench. Trees are available to provide shade.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance where the children hang their coats and, in the entrance, where children are dropped off. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. There are resources available in the entrance for parents.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. They were in great condition. I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were observed to have terrific interaction with the children. They were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Staff members included all the children in circle time and offered the children choices. Staff members provided the children with a clear and concise explanation of expectations and rules. Staff members encouraged the children to try things. Staff members had great teamwork and they had a great routine for the children. They used repetition to teach and made learning fun for the children. The children appeared to enjoy and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

It is a Christian program that includes prayer, Bible stories and visits from the pastor each month. Each student receives a Bible and a Little Lambs T-shirt. The preschool receives a lot of support from the church.

The program has organized staff and children files and a licensing binder.

The program has monthly story times with the Waverly Public Library, monthly Bible stories with Pastor Corey, monthly visits from the Bremer County Naturalist and monthly story time with their “Friday Friends” from the Waverly middle school. The children also had a field trip this past fall and plan to take one in the spring.

The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. A speech pathologist visits the program every Wednesday.

The program has great staff relationships and good communication with each other and the families. Staff members are kind, loving, helpful and supportive.

The program has a wonderful facility with a lot of space.

Vision screenings were completed in the fall by the Lion’s Club.

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 07/31/24.

The program has security cameras in place in the hallways surrounding the preschool. The outside doors are locked on a schedule, and both sets of double doors in the preschool hallway are locked during the day. There are doorbells at each

door. The preschool is completely self-contained.

Staff members cleaned and organized every drawer, cupboard and storage area. They have started using monthly storage tubs.

The program now has a stronger Wi-Fi signal that was added to their hallway.

The program made several purchases to improve the appearance of the preschool and educational experience for the children.

The program continues to involve the parents in their children's education. The program sends home a paper Luvy Lamb and parents email pictures of the child interacting with the lamb with a short write-up that is shared with the class. Parents can email pictures for sharing time or students may bring items to share in their backpacks.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to remove Roberta Maley as a director. She has retired.

*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.