Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Steps Daycare

Provider No.: 30097

Address: 206 South D ST, Sergeant Bluff, IA, 51054

County: Woodbury

Director's Name: Kelly Adams

On-Site Supervisor: Kaysha Conway

Phone Number: 7129438805

E-Mail: adamskel@sblschools.com
conwakay@sblschools.com

HHS Visit Date: 12/01/2025

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/09/2023

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

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Tuesday		7:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Wednesday		7:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Thursday		7:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Friday		7:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	4	5	27		36
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit to Little Steps Daycare on 12/01/25. I was able to speak with Director and Principal of the school Kelly Adams as well as Onsite Supervisor Kaysha Conway. Ms. Conway has 10 years of experience at the Little Steps Childcare with the center and a non-related associates degree. The center serves children ages 6 weeks to preschool. The program follows the school calendar and only provides care during the school year and when school is in session. The Little Steps Daycare is a daycare center that is in the Sgt. Bluff Primary school, and they utilize 2 rooms. They also have a lunchroom located in between both rooms. On Wednesdays there is no preschool, so children are at the daycare.

All areas of the program were observed including classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The center implements the Creative Curriculum, a research-based, comprehensive early childhood education framework. This curriculum is designed to support the development of the whole child—socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively—through hands-on, project-based learning. It emphasizes developmentally appropriate practices, encourages purposeful play, and fosters positive relationships between children and adults. Teachers use this curriculum to create engaging, culturally responsive learning environments that are tailored to each child's individual needs and strengths. The approach also promotes strong partnerships with families and supports kindergarten readiness through intentional teaching and exploration. The classroom environment is visually stimulating and developmentally appropriate. A variety of visual displays are present, including numbers, the alphabet, a job chart, a daily schedule, and high-frequency (sight) words. The atmosphere is warm and positive, with natural light streaming in through the windows, creating a welcoming and comfortable space. Staff members are actively engaged with the children, demonstrating attentive and responsive interactions that support learning and emotional development. The program utilizes a center-based approach to support

active, hands-on learning. Children have access to a variety of learning centers—such as dramatic play, blocks, art, literacy, and sensory exploration—which promote independence, creativity, and social interaction. These centers are thoughtfully arranged to encourage exploration and support developmental goals across all domains.

The center demonstrates strong food safety and nutrition practices. Refrigerators were observed to be clean and well-maintained, with appropriate food storage procedures in place. The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), ensuring meals and snacks meet federal nutrition guidelines.

The kitchen area is secured and not accessible to children, promoting a safe environment. The center provides breakfast and snacks for children in care, while lunch is catered by Aggie’s Restaurant. Menus are visibly posted for families and staff. For the school-age program, the school provides breakfast, and the center offers an afternoon snack. Food allergies and dietary restrictions are carefully managed. Staff are aware of individual children’s allergies and dietary needs, and accommodations are made accordingly. Allergy information is clearly posted in food preparation and serving areas

The center implements positive behavior guidance strategies that align with developmentally appropriate practices. Staff use redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement of appropriate behaviors to support children's social-emotional development. The program also incorporates Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a proactive framework that promotes positive behavior through consistent expectations, modeling, and supportive environments.

Medication is administered by the school nurse, ensuring proper oversight and adherence to medical protocols. A fully stocked first aid kit is available and sufficient to treat minor injuries.

Emergency preparedness is evident, with monthly fire and tornado drills documented as required. Radon testing has been completed, and the center is equipped with a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean, well-maintained, and free of hazards. Furnace inspection has been completed.

The playground is conveniently located adjacent to the center, providing easy access for children. It features rubber safety surfacing around climbing equipment to help prevent injuries, as well as a cemented area designated for chalk play and riding toys. Shade is available, offering protection from sun exposure during outdoor activities.

The center conducts monthly playground inspections to ensure equipment and surfaces remain safe and in good condition. In cases of inclement weather or when outdoor play is not possible, the childcare program has access to the school gym, ensuring children continue to have opportunities for gross motor development indoors.

The center utilizes school buses for transporting children on field trips, ensuring safe and reliable travel under school district guidelines. In addition to off-site excursions, the program enriches children's learning experiences by incorporating on-site and community-based resources.

Children have access to the school library, supporting early literacy and a love of reading. The center also participates in special activities such as the Tumblebus, which provides mobile physical education experiences that promote gross motor development in a fun and engaging way.

The center continues to prioritize staff recruitment and retention, with ongoing efforts to increase staffing levels and hire individuals with relevant experience in early childhood education. The program is committed to building a strong, qualified team to support high-quality care and learning environments for children.

I do encourage them to work with their CCR&R consultant to find resources such as grants and to participate in the IQ4K program.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Staff were observed to be actively engaged and hands-on with the children in their care. Interactions were warm, responsive, and developmentally appropriate. Staff demonstrated attentiveness by participating in activities alongside the children, offering guidance, encouragement, and support throughout the day. These positive interactions contribute to a nurturing and enriching learning environment.

A key strength of this program is the strong support it receives from both the school and the surrounding community. This

collaboration enhances the quality of care and education provided, offering additional resources, shared spaces, and enrichment opportunities that benefit both children and staff. The partnership fosters a sense of connection and shared responsibility for the success of the program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Program will email consultant by12/31/25 confirming that all items that are below standards have been corrected.

Please ensure that all staff training is updated in IPOWER

A full license is recommended at this time at this time.

At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 12/01/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer

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**.