Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Warriors Preschool

Provider No.: 52942

Address: 1009 South Main St, Alta, IA, 51002

County: Buena Vista

Director's Name: Jeni Marshall

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122001010

E-Mail: jmarshall@alta-aurelia.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 05/14/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/28/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [X] Accrediation — Comments: IQ4K level 1

Program Duration:

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

Health and Human Services

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Tuesday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Wednesday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Thursday		7:45 AM to 3:15 PM	
Friday			
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			20		20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

I completed an unannounced visit to the Little Warriors 3-year-old preschool program in Alta, Iowa, on May 14, 2026. I met with Director Jeni Marshall, who has extensive experience working with preschool-age children and has previously served as a director at another center. Ms. Marshall reported that she is planning to return to college to obtain her bachelor's degree in early childhood education

The preschool is located within Alta Elementary School. The building is secured, and visitors are required to check in at the main office before entering the preschool classroom. The preschool area includes the 3-year-old classroom and two SWVPP classrooms for 4-year-olds, which are supervised by the Department of Education. All classrooms share a common indoor and outdoor playground area. The program operates Monday through Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and follows the school district schedule for early dismissals and professional development days. All areas of the program were observed, including classroom activities, nutritional practices, health and safety procedures, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative documentation.

here are 18 children enrolled in the preschool program, and 18 children were present at the time of the visit. The classroom includes well-organized learning centers that promote play-based exploration, including a magnet board and a light board that encourage sensory engagement, creativity, and fine motor development. The classroom features multiple visual supports such as numbers, the alphabet, a job chart, a daily schedule, and sight words, which support early literacy and routine awareness.

The environment appeared warm and welcoming, with natural light entering through the windows. Staff were actively engaged with the children throughout the observation. t the time of the visit, the children were engaged in classroom

activities and were preparing to have pizza for lunch. Staff were observed reading a book about “Pete’s Pizza” to the group. During the activity, staff asked open-ended questions, encouraged children to share their thoughts, and facilitated a group discussion about how the class had earned their pizza party by making positive “green” choices. Staff interactions were calm, supportive, and developmentally appropriate, and they remained attentive to the children’s needs throughout the activity.

The preschool uses the Creative Curriculum, which supports children’s learning through play, exploration, and hands-on experiences. During the visit, children moved through inviting learning areas such as blocks, dramatic play, and the science table, where they experimented with materials and asked questions. Staff incorporated literacy and math naturally into the day through read-aloud, counting activities, and opportunities for drawing and writing. Art, music, and sensory activities were also available, giving children multiple ways to express themselves and stay engaged. The curriculum was reflected in the warm, child-centered environment and the supportive interactions between staff and children.

The staff implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) throughout the preschool day. Expectations are taught in simple, developmentally appropriate ways, and staff provide consistent guidance to help children understand what safe and respectful behavior looks like. During the visit, staff were observed offering positive feedback, modeling expected behaviors, and helping children navigate peer interactions. Children were reminded of classroom expectations using gentle prompts and visual cues, and staff celebrated children’s success when they made positive choices. PBIS practices were woven naturally into daily routines, contributing to a calm, supportive, and predictable learning. Family photos are displayed throughout the classroom, helping children feel a sense of belonging and creating a meaningful connection between their home and school environments.

Radon testing has been completed, and results are within normal limits. Monthly fire and tornado drills have also been completed, along with the required monthly playground inspections. The school has a nurse on-site, so any medications are administered by the nurse. For field trips, the preschool uses the Alta/Aurelia Community School bus. The playground includes age-appropriate equipment designed for children in this age group.

The Goal of this preschool is to continue to increase their IQ4K's level

Another project they are working on is to begin a before and after school program before the school year starts next fall.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

A strength of this program is the way it actively involves parents through home visits, an open-door policy, and parent-child projects that are sent home for families to complete together and then return to school to share and discuss.

This program has earned a Level 1 IQ4K rating, which means it meets all of Iowa’s foundational quality standards for child-care programs. It shows that the program is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment and has completed the essential steps in areas like health, family engagement, and staff development. It’s a solid starting point that reflects the program’s dedication to quality and its readiness to continue growing.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.

I also note that there is no biting policy in the handbook. As they are over 3 years old it is not necessary, but they may want to add a biting policy to avoid future issues should they arise.

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

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
I discussed with Ms. Marshall regarding her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance.

Ms. Marshall shared that she and one other staff member work together in the classroom, and they've been a team since the very beginning. Over time, they've built a strong, supportive working relationship and can easily recognize when the other is feeling stressed or needs a moment to regroup. Because Ms. Marshall works directly in the room, she is able to actively monitor the environment and step in to redirect or assist whenever necessary. She also maintains an open-door approach, encouraging staff to let her know when they need a break. When I spoke with the other staff member, they agreed that they both feel comfortable communicating their needs and supporting one another throughout the day.

Please email this consultant the correction of aspects not in compliance by 06/01/26. Prior to Ms. Marshall becoming the director of both the Alta and Aurelia 3-year-old programs she will need to designate an onsite supervisor and ensure that this person has the qualifications for this role. This role request is made through IPOWER.

A full license is recommended at this time.

A visit will occur within the next Calander year.

Date: 05/18/2026

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**.