



Health and
Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Lambs Preschool

Provider No.: 22846

Address: 890 State St, Garner, IA, 50438

County: Hancock

Director's Name: Alesha Lentz

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6419232300

E-Mail: littlelambstpaul@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/12/2026

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

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 02/20/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- ☐ PTO
- ☒ Licensing Visit
- ☐ Drop In
- ☐ Administrative Change

License Type:

- ☒ Full
- ☐ Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- ☐ Accrediation

Program Duration:

- ☐ Year-Round
- ☒ School Year
- ☐ Summer Only



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HOURS:	<u>Year-round</u>	<u>School-Year</u>	<u>Summer Only</u>
Sunday			
Monday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Tuesday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Wednesday			
Thursday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Friday		8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- ☐ Infant(0-<24 Months)
- ☐ Toddler
- ☒ PreSchool
- ☐ School Age
- ☐ All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			22		22
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Lambs Preschool on 01-12-26 where I met with center director Alesha Lentz. Alesha took over the directorship of this program in the 2017-18 school year and is well qualified for the position having a formal teaching degree and prior teaching experience. Cynthia Oshea is the assistant teacher and started with the program for the 2022-23 school year. The center is located in a residential home that has been converted for use for the preschool center. The program is operated as a non-profit preschool by the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Garner and overseen by a board of directors from the church. There are currently 2 teachers providing preschool services to 10 children. The program has previously offered several sessions with classes both in the morning, and afternoon. Due to lowered enrollment this year the program is only offering morning sessions. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The building, classroom, and programming remain the same as observed in prior reports with some minor changes to furniture arrangement. The primary space has an open floor plan with a kitchenette area that has no cooking appliances. Windows are located along each wall and provide ample natural light, ventilation, and a view of the outdoors. Exits are located at each end of the building and a basement is used as tornado shelter. All exits were maintained to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and readily. A bathroom is located just off the main programming area which also has sinks available for hand washing. There is an upper floor that is used for storage only. The facilities were observed to be clean with no maintenance issues noted. The room is divided into activity centers through the placement of shelves, furniture, and play structures providing the children with room to move and play without creating any blind areas. As noted the arrangement of the furniture was changed with moving and reduce the teacher work area so that it provides more programming space for the children, and allows direct line of sight to all areas of the programming space including restrooms. The available activity centers include group learning, art/crafts, large/small manipulatives, dramatic play,



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math/science, and reading. A wall mount TV is present to use as an interactive media center. Each activity center was observed to have a good selection of materials that are readily accessible to the children and in good condition and appropriate to the ages of the children that attend the program.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed during the time of the visit. Each child was greeted as they arrived and the teachers knew each child individually. Once the program started for the day both teachers followed the planned schedule and curriculum participating in the activities with the children. Both teachers were very positive and energetic when working with the children and spoke in calm and positive tones. This coupled with proactive behavior management practices of positive recognition, reminders of expected behavior, and simple redirection resulted in the children appearing to be enjoying their time and not having any behavioral acting out. Ratio was maintained in the center with two teachers present and either both being engaged with the children, or dividing responsibilities such as one setting up snack while the other presented a lesson activity.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed but some practices do need to be reviewed. The teachers did provide supervision and assistance to the children in the restroom to ensure good hygiene and handwashing practices were followed. The teachers also sent the children to wash their hands before snack however after doing so the children were directed to sit on the floor while they did a group prayer. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers sanitizing the tables prior to snack service. This was done while the children were engaged in group activity away from that area to reduce the risk of overspray exposure. The center does maintain a supply of first aid items necessary to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, medications, personal belongings, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible to children. The center did not have any children with an identified allergy, health concern, or taking medications but does have policies in place should it become necessary.

Due to the limited hours of each session meals are not served but snacks are provided. The parents take it in turn to provide the snacks for the children and a list of recommended options is provided. A log of snack items that were served is maintained. The center does maintain a limited supply of snack items to supplement is necessary. Food items were stored in a manner that is consistent with CACFP guidelines. The teachers did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the tables.

The playground was reviewed and the center has a newer commercial grade climbing structure, and an older wooden structure. Both were in good repair but the wooden structure was showing signs of weathering and will need to be assessed in the spring for maintenance such as sanding/sealing of the wood. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing but could not be fully assessed due to winter freeze. The center will need to assess the material and ensure a depth of at least 9 inches of loose material and aerate or supplement if needed. The playground is fully fenced and the fencing was observed to be in good repair. Mature trees provide ample shade. There were some downed branches which need to be removed before resuming outdoor play.

The church has a van which is owned and maintained by the church and the center is allowed to use. The center is providing transportation services. While the center does conduct a background check of the driver that individual is not considered an employee of the program counted in ratio so a teacher accompanies the children when transportation is being provided.

All required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, License Certificate, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted and readily visible to all parents and visitors. Other required notices for emergency evacuation, emergency numbers, hand washing, daily schedule, and lesson plan were also present. All child files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. Staff files were also reviewed and contained all required documentation. In reviewing inspection logs and certificates all were available and current with the exception of Radon Testing which Alesha stated had been done but fell behind a cabinet drawer when she removed it from the file folder and she would need to remove all of the drawers to retrieve it. Alesha stated she would forward the results once she had retrieved the document. The center does have a Radon Mitigation System installed. The center policy handbook was reviewed and there were policies that were missing since the time of the last revision.



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3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

Several required written policies were missing following the most recent handbook revision. Those policies include information on Staff Orientation & Training, Biting, and Confidentiality of records. Additionally the center policies regarding responding to Major/Minor injuries should also be expanded to identify what the center considers to be a major injury, and the timeframes within which parents will be notified.

Children's hands were washed prior to snack service but the teachers directed the children to sit on the floor while completing a prayer before snack resulting in each child touching the floor and negating the benefit of washing their hands.

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

A list of required written policies and guidance regarding recommendations of information to include was sent to the center.

Options for praying before hand washing, standing or sitting directly at the table while praying were reviewed.

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: 01/16/2026

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>.