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

Name of Center: Redeemer Lutheran Little Lambs Preschool **Enrollment:** 18 **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: 01-10-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-19-2024

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 02-01-2025 to 02-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-14-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/10/25 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, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-11:30 am. There are 18 children enrolled. The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 08/31/26.

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 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 to prepare snack. There are two rooms where the children enjoy centers and a large space where children have their main classroom to do circle and lesson time.

Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, 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 room used for circle/lesson time. Each bathroom has one toilet and there is a sink outside the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms in the church.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the hall outside the classrooms with the program's address and phone number. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the program. 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 2024 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 in a notebook 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 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. You must post the mandatory reporter information on the parent board.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed six 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 terrific with the children. They made the learning environment fun and inviting. Staff members are enthusiastic and it came across in how they taught and interacted with the children. They interacted with the children at their level and offered them choices. They were flexible but maintained a routine for the children. Staff members had great teamwork. They each have jobs and roles within the classroom and know what to expect from one another. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members change out centers routinely so that children do not get bored. Staff members modeled good manners for the children. They included children in activities and encouraged them to use their imaginations. Children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 008/31/06.

IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS:
Started a partnership with Taylor Physical Therapy (speech, occupational and physical).
Started a partnership with our Child Care Nurse Consultant to promote and improve oral health.
Tuesday/Thursday classes were canceled due to low numbers.
Large storage room was cleaned/organized with additional shelving added.
They added recordable buttons for their “High Five” letter and number review.
They updated their Wi-Fi.

PURCHASES:
Starfall.com yearly subscriptions
Each preschooler is given their own Bible through the Thrivent Grant
Each preschooler is given a Little Lanbs t-shirt to wear on field trips and special days
Each preschooler is given a bookworm and a book for their birthday
Gifts are given at Christmas, Valentine’s Day and Easter
A Grant for $3733 was received from HHS. It was used to purchase several sets of unique building blocks, waterfall toys, magnetic sorting/graphing toys, posters, light table plus sensory toys for the light table, several sets of animal themed Magna tiles, manipulatives, High Five resources, View Master sets (nursery rhymes, songs, space), several sets of lacing cards, books on CD, drawing projector, pocket calendar plus monthly cards.

DAILY SCHEDULE AND CLASSROOM ROUTINE:
Parents continue to drop preschoolers off at NW door, teachers help students wash their hands. Parents pick up at SW door. Classrooms are locked during preschool hours.
Preschoolers continue to be spaced out on four large rugs for opening and lesson time
Preschoolers use a large placemat, a washable bowl and their own water bottle from home for snack each day (certain months they practice pouring water from a pitcher)
Cowboy Jim and his horse, Thunder, came in September. Firefighters came in October. They took a field trip in November to the Waverly Public Library. Both teachers drive and parents volunteer to drive their own child. They continue to have a monthly story time with the Waverly Public Library at the preschool. Monthly Bible stories with Pastor Corey. Monthly visits from the Bremer County Naturalist. Monthly story time with Friday Friends from the Middle School.
Started a new program last year called "Learning with Little Lambs" and they continued it this year. Friends from Redeemer Church sign up to read and do other activities with the preschoolers.
Vision screening was completed in the fall by the Lions Club.
Speech pathologist comes every Wednesday.
They continue with emailed photos for sharing time and Luvy Lamb or preschoolers may bring their sharing items in their backpacks.
Added a Christmas program/party for parents.

GOALS:
Stay up to date on IQ4K requirements
Continue to write one or two Thrivent Grants each year
Maintain the appearance of their preschool
Continue the good relationship with Redeemer Church
Continue good communication/relationships with preschool families
Organize all filing cabinets
Continue making monthly tubs in the storage rooms
Continue to rotate/change toys monthly
Advertise

PROGRAM STRENGTHS:
Great staff relationships
Kind, loving, helpful and supportive staff
Creative, age-appropriate lessons
We incorporate fun at-home lessons (butterfly and apple bags, Flat Luvy, class books)
Photos from the week emailed to all families
Communication-with each other and their families
Use of technology
Wonderful facility-lots of space
Beautiful playground
A lot of support from Redeemer Church
Community involvement such as Trunk or Treat, Nursing Home program, Singing at Redeemer, Trunk or Treat booth, float in the Waverly Heritage Parade, and Live Window at Christmas on Main.

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.

*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.