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

Name of Center: Redeemer Lutheran Little Lambs Preschool **Enrollment:** 23 **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: 01-11-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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:** 01-23-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/11/24 I made an unannounced off year 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 23 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 to prepare 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 are additional bathrooms in the church.

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 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 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 in a notebook and were available for review. There are times that only one component is being served. You must always serve two components to meet CACFP guidelines.

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 members had amazing teamwork and a great routine with one another. Staff members are enthusiastic and had positive vibes. The program provides a great learning environment and teachers use repetition to teach. Staff members were respectful of the children's feelings and they allowed the children to share their thoughts. They had great control over the classroom. They provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. While eating snack a teacher reads a book to the children. The children also enjoyed watching a video of nursery rhymes. Staff members incorporate learning shapes, colors and counting in fun activities. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

The program has a monthly activity calendar for parents that has fun activities for the children, such as wearing a certain color of clothing to school on a specific day. On the day of my visit, they were wearing two different shoes.

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.

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.

Each child is given a bookworm and a new book for their birthdays.

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 participate in field trips.

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

Staff members develop creative, age-appropriate lessons. They incorporate technology.

The program has a wonderful facility with a lot of space. They have a great playground.

The program receives a lot of support from the church.

The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide services to children with identified needs. A speech pathologist visits the program every week. Vision screenings are done annually.

The program made several purchases to improve the center and the opportunities for the children. They purchased many educational toys for the children.

The program put new carpet in the hallway.

The program goals: To get more familiar with the new IQ4K requirements. Continue to write one or two Thrivent Grants each year. Maintain the appearance of the preschool. Continue the good relationship with Redeemer Church. Continue to have good communication/relationship with families.

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

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking. There are times that only one component is being served. You must always serve two components to meet CACFP guidelines.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. 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.