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

**Name of Center:** Little Lambs Preschool at Mt Olive Lutheran Church **Enrollment:** 35 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28348

**Street:** 5625 Franklin Ave **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50310 **County:** Polk

**Mailing Address:** 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50310

**Director's Name:** Heidi Rains **Phone Number:** 515-277-8349

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Cory Emily **E-Mail:** heidi.rains@molcs.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 12-01-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-06-2022

**FIRE INSPECTION** **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

**Date Inspected:** 03-25-2023

**Comments :** Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

**LICENSE TYPE:** X **Child Care** **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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

**SCHEDULE:** X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

| **HOURS:** | *Year-round* | *School-Year* | *Summer Only* |
|---|---|---|---|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | | | 40 | 60 | 100 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 01-09-2024

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced off year visit was completed 12-1-23 and the director was present through the entire visit.

Little Lambs Preschool has been in operation since 1989. This preschool is located in Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and school. There is a secured entrance. Heidi Rains started as director in September of 2012. Heidi has a BA in Elementary and Early Education. Heidi was employed by Des Moines Public Schools as a Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher prior to coming to Little Lambs Preschool. Cory Emily, School Principal is listed as an on-site supervisor. Both meet the requirements.

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

The preschool offers all day programming for three year old children, as well as before and after school programming for all preschool children. The preschool began offering year round care in June of 2020, and this program will now offer and manage before and after school care, as well as summer care, for school age children, up to 5th grade. The hours of care combined with preschool is from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Summer care is open to the community for enrollment, not just families who attend this school/preschool.

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

Rooms observations/Activities: The preschool uses One in Christ Curriculum as well as the Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum and enduring faith. The program uses group-me application and email to communicate with parents. Four rooms are currently in use, plus a multi-purpose room. Staff were in ratio. The rooms offer a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities/games.

Nutrition practices: The school kitchen is on-site and has dedicated chef (Chef Amy). The menus are crafted by Chef Amy, are in a four week rotation and in-line with CACFP requirements. The 3 year olds eat in their classroom, with meals served family-style. Four year olds go to the cafeteria to eat meals. The kitchen was very clean and organized with handwashing signs and menus posted.

Health and Safety: Medications are secured in the office; and administered by staff or school nurse. First Aid kits were readily available. Fire/Tornado plans are posted and drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon was tested in Sept 2022, all falling below 4.0 cutoff. HVAC is inspected annually by the church (last completed 11-1 -23). Classrooms have carbon monoxide detectors.

Playground: checks were documented to have been completed monthly as required. The playground is maintained by the school; with chain link fencing enclosure; shade and play structures along with safety surfacing of rubber.

Transportation/Field trips: parents provide transportation for field trips.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, consultant contact, handbook accessibility, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were conspicuously posted. Five child files were reviewed; missing two updated physicals or health statements. Three staff files were reviewed; one needing to update FBI/National Checks. The program has an establish policy.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

Heidi has a Bachelors degree in education and has years of experience teaching young children. Heidi brings years of experience and leadership to the program.

The center has classrooms that are well furnished.

The church, as well as the school, is a good support for the preschool and also provides some funding for the preschool. The school principal is a strong support and advocate for the program.

The preschool works to meet the needs of the families they serve. The preschool offers before and after school care for all preschool children, as well as all day programming for three year old children. The parents only pay for the days they use.

The preschool children are prepared for kindergarten.

The program offers open enrollment for school age children which is pro-rated for only the days and hours they attend. The program also allows parents of preschool age children to choose if they want a 3 or 5 day program, half day or full day programming.

The center has a strong team of teachers and some longevity of teachers, with teachers being at the center for 9 years, 8 years and 2 years.

The families are very supportive of the program and appreciative of the program.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment. For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Previously there had been discussion with regard to ensuring the preschoolers lunch was served safely and the program has established safe food service, as they eat in their room with staff.

Radon testing is due every two years. The last radon test was completed in September of 2022 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The annual furnace/boiler check is maintained by the church and is checked annually.

*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.