Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Lambs Preschool at Mt Olive Lutheran Church

Provider No.: 28348

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

County: Polk

Director's Name: Heidi Rains

On-Site Supervisor: Cory Emily

Phone Number: 5152778349

E-Mail: heidi.rains@molcs.org

HHS Visit Date: 10/22/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/01/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by FF Jacobson, Des Moines, Fire Dept.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

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

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 10-22-25. Heidi Rains, 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

The preschool offers all day programming for three year old children, as well as before and after school programming for all preschool children. 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 5:30 PM.

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

Little Lambs Preschool uses curriculum pulled from the Iowa Early Learning Standards 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. The rooms offer a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities/games. The staff maintained structure in the classroom while also providing nurturing responses. The children were content. The program is considering an option to partner with Des Moines Public School to offer universal pre-school (UPK).

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The school, which is in the same building with the preschool program, provides lunch, afternoon snacks and an additional snacks during after-school programming. 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.

Little lambs has an outdoor playground area that is enclosed provided by the school.

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

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has a secure entrance with video monitoring of the exterior and the interior hallways.

The director brings many years of early childhood education experience.

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 center has a strong team of teachers and some longevity of teachers.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report. One staff file was missing an updated physical exam form. The director indicated she would have the teacher complete an updated exam/form.

109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care. One child file was missing emergency dental information.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The last radon testing kits were completed 9/2024 and results are pending; the previous Radon testing occurred in 9/2022 and reflected values all under the 4.0 safety cutoff.

This program has a boiler that was new in 2023.

Date: 10/25/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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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**.