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

Name of Center: Lil' Cubs **Enrollment:** 140 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18046

Street: 1120 S G AVE **City:** Nevada Iowa **Zip** 50201 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 1120 S G AVE, Nevada, IA, 50201

Director's Name: Amy Coogler/Abbigail Buttry **Phone Number:** 515-382-3333

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashleigh Glauner/Rebecca Snodgrass **E-Mail:** lilcubschildcare@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-16-2022

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:** 11-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 11-16-2021

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: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 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	59	27	56	50	192
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2023 to 01-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-22-2022

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 12/16/22. The director/owner, Amy Coogler, was present throughout the visit.

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 playground had some snow cover.

After being an in-home provider for years, Amy Coogler started a licensed preschool program in 2006. She saw there was a need for a child care center and was able to remodel a church and opened Lil Cubs Childcare on Sept. 8, 2014. Amy meets the requirements to be director. Abbigail Buttry is the co-director. Abbigail has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Human Services and worked at this daycare center for two years prior to becoming co-director. Ashleigh Glauner and Rebecca Snodgrass are the On-Site Supervisors at the center. Ashleigh has an Associate's degree and a Bachelor's degree in Human Services. Ashleigh has two prior years experience in a childcare setting. Rebecca has taken college courses and had four prior years experience at this center prior to becoming On-Site supervisor. All four meet qualifications for their positions.

Hours of operation are 6:00 am-6:00 pm. They serve infants through school age children.

In 2017, Amy completed an addition to the center, adding new rooms and completing some remodeling to the existing building. There are now seven enclosed classrooms. Recently, Amy split a large room in half, however they share the common area so the wall does not separate the entire room. This is for the older toddlers and twos. This does not change the capacity for the center and the fire marshal approved the half wall on 12/13/19. The split portion holds 8 children on each side and the shared/common area holds 10 children for capacity.

The center uses the Creative Curriculum. Each classroom has a monthly lesson plan.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The center continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Amy feels a strength for the center is the ability to separate children according to their ages.

Amy has been in the field of child care for over thirty years. She feels she can offer a lot to the families that want a center setting rather than an in-home environment. She has hired staff who have previous experience working in other child care settings and they bring with them new ideas and enthusiasm.

The center has grown and enrollment is consistent.

The center has a good reputation in the community.

The staff work well together and the center is family based. The center also conducts family events. Each classroom sends out a newsletter once a month by email.

The center has a Facebook page as well as a website.

The center has video cameras in each room for extra security.

The director/owner is a certified CPR/First Aid instructor.

The rooms are set up well with a large variety of toys and equipment and center arrangement.

The center has many long term staff, with one staff working at the center for 15 years, two at 8 years and 4 at five years.

The center uses walkie talkie's for communication.

The management team works well together. They strive to show staff they are appreciated. They do contests which brings out creativity and engagement with the staff, such as door decorating contests with prizes. They have pot lucks and bring in food and treats. They give out gift cards if a staff does not call in for the month. At the end of the year, if a staff has five days of their 8 days of sick leave left, the staff is paid for a week of work as a bonus. They make the environment fun and fun place to work.

The center has a secure entrance.

The owner put in new surfacing on the playground, with new mulch and underlayment; putting in $30,000 worth of mulch and surfacing materials.

The center staff and administrative team develop good relationships with the families and have strong communication. Families stay with the center.

The center has remained open during the pandemic and the staff have shown resiliency and dedication. The center is fully staffed.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is required every two years. The last radon test was completed in November of 2021 and fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected every year.

The menus reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.