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

Name of Center: Little Angels Childcare **Enrollment:** 80 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19864

Street: 2610 Vineyard ST **City:** Burlington Iowa **Zip** 52601 **County:** Des Moines

Mailing Address: 2610 Vineyard ST, Burlington, IA, 52601

Director's Name: Wendy Rider **Phone Number:** 319-752-2002

On-Site Supervisor(s): Sarah Nichols, Taylor Bergquist **E-Mail:** littleangels14@outlook.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-25-2025

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:** 02-21-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-25-2024

Comments : Does Comply. Due annually, completed by Burlington Fire Department. Document states the inspection expires next July.

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 X 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	8	12	35	18	73
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 04-01-2025 to 04-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 05-01-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Little Angels Childcare is located in a single story, masonry building in a residential area of Burlington. The building was specifically constructed for child care. The center provides full day child care for children ages infant through school age. The center is owned and operated by Wendy Rider. Ms. Rider purchased the center in January of 2014 after 24 years of service at the center. She has worked at the Center since 1998. Child care services are offered Monday-Friday from 6:00am-5:30pm. Services are offered for infants-school aged children.

Sarah Nichols the onsite supervisor was present the date of the visit and was working in ratio. She has worked full time in the center since 2007. Another employee at the center Marsha Olsen is the other site supervisor. She has worked at the center for since 1984. Taylor Bergquist is an additional on site supervisor who has been employed at the center since August 2016. Marcia Olsen and Ashley Gerst are also on site supervisors.

Children are signed in upon entry to the Center. At that time the parent documents the time and person picking up the child for departure. Typically Ms. Rider or another staff member are present at the front desk.

I arrived at the center on 4/25/2 for an unannounced licensing visit. I met with On Site Supervisor Sara Nichols and Director Rider. Director Rider was at the front desk and not in ratio. She is present daily nearly the entire day. All program areas were observed at that time. The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The center contains an infant classroom, and a toddler room 1-2 years old. It contains a classroom specifically for 2 year old children and a classroom specifically for 3-5 year old children. School age children also utilize this classroom before and after school.

Each classroom had an age appropriate curriculum posted. Lesson plans were appropriate which included: active and quiet times, large-group activities, small group activities and time to play alone or with others, indoor and outdoor play times, and time for children to select their own activities and teacher directed activities. A wide variety of toys, educational games, puzzles, and books were available to the children to utilize. They were all in good condition. The environment was clean and well maintained. Classrooms were decorated with educational materials that were age appropriate. The center classrooms are clean and well organized.

Center Nutrition Practices:

The center chooses to participate in the CACFP Program. Food preparation and storage procedures were consistent with NHSPS. The center had thermometers in all refrigerators and freezers. The pantry is clean and well organized. The center is doing extra training with the staff regarding serving the children family style. The center had a CACFP review last June. The Director indicated all paperwork was 100%.

No expired food items were present. All food was stored appropriately. The center offers breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. The center rotates their menu every 3 weeks and seasonally. Each child was served a nutritionally balanced meal and snack as defined by CACFP guidelines. The center added some foods containing whole wheat after their recent CACFP review.

Center Health and Safety:

Medications are stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. Medications are inaccessible to public and the center is able to provide documentation of medication given. Allergies were discussed and children had allergy action plans on file and posted accessibly for staff to refer to in an emergency. All first aid supplies recommended by the IDPH were available in the centers first aid kits.

Tornado and Fire Drills were practiced and documented once a month as required per my observation of documentation. Radon testing (every 5 years) and annual fuel burning appliances inspection had been completed and documentation present. Carbon monoxide detectors are present as required. Sanitary procedures were in place for diapering/assisting with toilet training. Staff should open windows briefly and periodically to assist with ventilation.

The center received grant monies and purchased/ installed all new heating and air conditioning units two years ago. They also bought a more cost efficient washer and dryer. New furniture was purchased for the classrooms as well as a new air purifier.

Center Playground:

The playground consists of separate fenced in areas for children to ensure activities were age appropriate and children were safe. The center playground includes: riding toys, slides, climbing structure, balls, pushing toys, playhouse and table. Surfacing is provided by pea gravel and rubber mats. Shade is provided by trees/building. Gaps between the gates and fence should be altered so that they are not between 3.5-9 inches. The Child Care Outdoor Weather Watch is utilized if outdoor play is questionable due to varying weather conditions. A first aid kit is taken outdoors. Playground inspections are conducted monthly per observation of documentation. New outdoor play equipment was purchased last year with grant monies. The center added new turf to the outdoor play area. The center added all new chain link fencing last year

Center Transportation and Field Trips:

The center chooses to offer field trips and utilizes their 15 passenger van. The van has an annual vehicle inspection. School aged children go to parks, pools, miniature golfing and Rec Plex. First Aid kits and emergency contacts are taken when off campus. All children have signed field trip authorizations on file. They are updated annually. Field trip ratios are followed.

Center Administrative Records:

The program is utilizing curriculum on a daily basis. The Director and OSS monitor this.

The following postings were available on the date of the visit: Mandatory Reporter, Handbook Availability, Consultant Contact, License, Emergency Procedures for fire and tornado, and no smoking signs. Reviewed child and staff files. Administration has a tracking system for both staff and child information. All staff and children's files are up to date. Four child physicals are overdue, but this is less than 10% of enrollment and not a pattern of disregard. An immunization audit was conducted in January by the IDPH, 79 files were audited and 5 child certificates needed updated. They were all corrected on the date of the HHS visit. On April 8th the children had a dental check up.

The center has a lengthy handbook. All policies and procedures were reviewed. Staff have signed and dated training acknowledgement on the center Emergency Preparedness Plan.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center director has National Administrator Credentials and many years of childcare experience. She renewed this certification in 2021.

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

No areas observed the date of the visit were a pattern of disregard.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to continue to maintain licensing standards. The OSS and Director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted any rule violation in the future would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Nancy Granaman works with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Granaman visited with Wendy on 1/3/24 discussing IQ4K plans, continued staff shortage, and staff training. On 3/6/24 she conducted an onsite training regarding immunizations in childcare. She will be visiting later in the year to conduct a health and safety assessment for IQ4K level 3. CCNC Granaman has also prepared an infectious disease manual for the program. CCNC Granaman and Director Rider have a good working relationship. They have worked together consistently for 19 years.

She provided the following the past year: "Little Angels: Drop in visit 2/5/25, Med Adm test out x 4 staff on 3/12/25, Med Adm test out x staff on 3/26/25. In 2024 there were drop in visits on a every 2-3 month basis. I make regular "drop in" visits to and I am sure I am missing some dates. Sometimes I am needing to update Business Partnership Agreements or I have things to give them (gloves, Infectious disease manuals)."

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Tabitha Copeland. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Consultant Copeland was on site in June 2023 and again for a drop off early this summer. She has emailed general things and collaborated on training questions. In Feb. 2025 they worked on IQ4K goals.

*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.