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

Name of Center: Lakes Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 147 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51907

Street: 225 E Vista Lake AVE **City:** Polk City Iowa **Zip** 50226 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: PO Box 157, Polk City, IA, 50226

Director's Name: Emily Feldman **Phone Number:** 515-452-0560

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katelynn Joynes/Anne Sutton **E-Mail:** emily@lakeselc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-08-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-28-2022

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

Date Inspected: 07-27-2022

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	30	14	46	60	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-28-2023

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 11-8-23. Emily Feldman, director was present for the entire visit.

Lakes Early Learning Center was given Permission to Open on 8/15/22. This center is new construction and has sole occupancy of a building designed specifically for a child care center. Emily Feldman is the director and owner. Emily has a Bachelor's degree in Business management and Spanish. Emily has two prior years experience in a childcare setting, with prior director experience. Emily meets qualifications to be the director. There are on-site supervisors; Katelynn (Katie) Joynes, Anne Sutton Both started when the center opened. Katie has 10 prior years of experience in childcare settings. Anne has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family services, as well as a Mater's degree in school counseling. Anne has prior experience in a childcare setting. Both meet the criteria for their positions.

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 center serves children age 6 weeks up to 5th grade. The hours are from 6:30 am to 6 pm.

Room observations/Activities: The center is using 2nd Step, Pocket of Preschool and Learning without tears for handwriting for their curriculum. The center focuses on play based learning, and addresses the social and emotional developmental needs of the children as well as academic/learning needs. The lead teachers complete lesson plans. There is a variety of centers and activities in the different rooms. The rooms are arranged such that they provide good supervision. The staff were observed to be responsive and nurturing with the children. Staff maintained good structure in the rooms.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The kitchen was very clean and organized. Menus are on a 4-week rotation and in-line with CACFP guidelines. Meals are served family-style in the rooms. The center provides AM/PM snacks and lunch. Menus are posted throughout the center.

Health and Safety: Medication at the center is stored securely in the classroom and administered by staff. Handwashing signs were consistently posted throughout the center. There were first aid kits readily available. Oxivir/Bleach Water and Soapy water are used to clean/sanitize. Fire/Tornado emergency plans were posted and emergency drills were documented to have been completed monthly. Radon was completed 11/2022, showing results all under 4.0 cutoff. HVAC is inspected annually, this is a newer system. Carbon monoxide detectors are on site. This center is very clean and nicely organized.

Playground: Playground is divided by ages, enclosed with chain link with artificial grass and safety surfacing of mulch. There is a shade structure. The property on which the center is located, includes a treed area, that the children are allowed to explore with staff supervision.

Transportation/field trips: This center offers before/after school transportation via a 15-passenger bus. The center has professional maintenance regularly.

Administrative review: Information regarding Mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, and non-smoking signs are conspicuously posted as required along with emergency exit plans. Six child files were reviewed and contained all the required information; three employee files were reviewed and contained all the necessary information. The center has an establish policy and the director reviews the policy regularly to ensure best practice.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has strong enrollment and a wait-list.

The classrooms have good room arrangement and set up, with ease of movement and age appropriate toys/materials and centers for the children.

There is strong communication between staff and families.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center owner has been able to recruit and retain staff, the center is fully staffed.

The center uses walkie talkies for help with communication between staff and management.

The center owner plans on applying for an IQ4K rating and has reached out to their CCR&R consultant. The center continues to prepare the necessary items to attain an IQ4K rating.

The director/owner is very organized and is passionate about providing quality childcare.

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

There were not aspects of operation that fell below standards of review.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has created a written emergency preparedness plan and an emergency disaster kit.

The center's menu reflects the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in November of 2022 and all rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center is new construction with a new furnace.

*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.