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

Name of Center: Natural Wonders Learning Center **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50179

Street: 1512 Westwood DR **City:** Jefferson Iowa **Zip** 50129 **County:** Greene

Mailing Address: 1512 Westwood DR, Jefferson, IA, 50129

Director's Name: Nicole Timmons **Phone Number:** 515-386-2317

On-Site Supervisor(s): Monica Fitzgibbon **E-Mail:** naturalwonders4kids@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-06-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-17-2022

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

Date Inspected: 09-02-2023

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years. The center had some items they needed to correct.

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	16	12	26	16	70
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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 11-07-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 11/6/23. The owner/director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Natural Wonders Learning Center is a center in Jefferson, IA that was given permission to open on 8/20/18. The center is owned by Nicole Timmons. Nicole is also the director of the center. Nicole has a BA degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. Nicole has over 10 years of experience working in child care in both a school and a child care setting. The on-site supervisor as of 7/2023 is Monica Fitzgibbon. Monica has experience working in child care and has taken a number of professional development training courses to meet the requirements for on-site supervisor.

The center serves children six weeks in age to 12 years in age using the Creative Learning Curriculum. The center is open year-round. There are a total of five classrooms. The infant classroom has a capacity of eight children. The toddler classroom has a capacity of eight children. The two year old classroom has a capacity of 12 children. The three/four year old classroom has a capacity of 26 children. The five/school-age classroom has a capacity of 16 children.

During the visit, the majority of children had just started napping. Staff were spaced out in classrooms and assisting children with getting ready for nap. In the infant room, a diaper change was observed and several infants were awake and engaged in tummy time. Staff were sitting next to these infants and engaging with them.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment remains steady.

The center was nicely decorated and clean.

The center uses Bright Wheel which is an electronic application for daily sheets and other licensing functions.

The center employs a full-time cook.

The director has lots of experience working in the child care/school setting.

The center utilizes the Family Resource Center for assistance when needed.

Quarterly all staff meetings are held.

The owner stated she felt like she has a good staff working for her. Staff work well together and have good communication

with each other and support each other.

The center now has security cameras installed.

Good child-staff interactions were observed.

The center has added a new area to their playground area.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.
1. On the playground, more mulch is needed under the swings as there is enough surfacing depth. Outdoor playground mats for under the swings are recommended.
2. There was a slide that was more than 18 inches platform height on the younger playground that will need to be removed as grass is not a sufficient fall surface.
3. It was too dark to be able to sufficiently see children napping in the toddler classroom. More lighting is needed.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The AM, PM, and full-days schedules should be posted for the school-age classroom.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It was previously noted that the carbon monoxide detector is built into the building systems.

The center has a bus that is used for field trips. The bus has a first-aid kit and staff take children's emergency contacts with them for all field trips. The bus was not inspected at this year's visit as it was off site getting serviced.

Radon testing was last tested 12/24/21 - 12/28/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years. It was noted at last year's visit that the center had been working with a radon mitigation specialist.

The annual furnace inspection was completed on 11/3/23.

IQ4K and I-Power were again discussed at the visit.

As mentioned above in the below standards section, it is recommended that the center purchase outdoor playground mats to place under the swings to help preserve wood chip surfacing depth.

There was one child with an epipen that travels back and forth between when the child is at the center and at home. Sometimes, this epipen is not brought into the center by the parents per staff. It is recommended an epipen kit also be made available at all times to the center and especially when the child is present at the center.

It was noted that one food allergy medication form was posted, but had the name of the child hidden. It is recommended the center get written permission from the parents to be able to fully post this form. If the parents decline, this form should be moved to an area where it cannot be readily observed by other individuals other than staff.

*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.