Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Endeavor Grimes

Provider No.: 50996

Address: 441 SE Gateway Dr, Grimes, IA, 50111

County: Polk

Director's Name: McKenna Mattheis

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5159860920

E-Mail: mckenna@littleendeavors.com

HHS Visit Date: 05/20/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2026 to 07/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/12/2026

Comments: Johnston-Grimes Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations. Johnston - Grimes typically do inspections every other year. The Fire Marshal was out on 5/12/26 and the center had an emergency light out that needed repaired.

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 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	21	17	65	52	155
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 5/20/26. The director was initially off site at a meeting with other Little Endeavor directors and the GM, but arrived shortly thereafter once being informed this consultant was at the center for their inspection.

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.

Little Endeavors Grimes (formerly known as First Steps Child Care Center Grimes) was purchased by Eric Kohlsdorf and Todd Figley in 1/2020. Eric and Todd also own the Little Endeavors programs in Waukee, IA and Ankeny, IA. The General Manager of all three programs is Kellee Baker. Kellee has past experience being a director at another program. The director at this center, officially as of 11/2022 is McKenna Mattheis. McKenna was previously the on-site supervisor and prior to that, the center cook. McKenna has a lot of experience working in child care and this center. McKenna has also taken a number of professional development training courses.

The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age. One side of the building has enclosed classrooms and then one open area for four/five year old children. On the other side, the room is all open and used by school-age children. Capacity of the infant classroom is 10 children. Capacity of the one year old classroom is 11 children. Capacity of the two year old classroom is 17 children. Capacity of the three year old classroom is 18 children. Capacity of the four/five year old area is 47 children. Capacity of the school-age area is 52 children. The center uses the Learning Beyond Paper Learning Curriculum. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 49 children.

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During the inspection, school-age children were in school. Younger children were observed napping in a crib, being held while being bottle fed, washing hands, sitting down to eat lunch, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Toys and other classroom equipment are being sanitized daily. This consultant reviewed diapering procedures with staff and specifically dwell times for disinfecting diapering tables (five minutes based on the product the center uses). Children gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

NUTRITION: The center serves children an AM snack, lunch, and a PM snack. Menus are posted for the week. Children eat in their classrooms at the child-size tables and chairs. The center has a large kitchen area and employs a full-time cook. All food storage was sufficient. The (frozen brand) pizza being served on the day of the inspection did not meet CACFP requirements.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center has a 15 passenger van that they use for field trips. Kindergarten aged children and older are eligible for field trips. For all field trips, the center takes a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts. Regular maintenance is performed on the van. The center is a pick up/drop off site for the school district.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playground areas based on ages of children. Both playground areas are adjacent to each other and completely fenced in. There are riding toys and climbing structures. Poured in place rubber is used for surfacing. There were a couple of bolts that connect the fence to the sidewalk that need to have another nut put on each bolt so that no more than two threads are showing.

For more difficult child behaviors, staff are encouraged to reach out to management if they need assistance or a short break. Communication is stressed. Little Endeavor directors also have weekly meetings to discuss trends at their centers, including child behaviors. Communication is also stressed with parents to hopefully get more severe behaviors more under control.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The owners of this program also own Little Endeavors in Waukee and Little Endeavors in Ankeny. There is continuity.

The director has past experience working in child care, including as an on-site supervisor and the center cook.

The center was clean and nicely decorated.

Monthly all-staff meetings are held. Monthly meetings are held with the owners and GM. Weekly director meetings are held.

The center uses the Pro-Care online app.

The center has a secure entrance.

Good staff - child interactions and conversations were observed and overheard during the visit in all classrooms.

Employees are eligible for benefits (insurance, vacation, sick leave, health insurance, etc.).

The center has a break room for staff.

There is a lot of storage space.

The center has a full-time cook.

The center is a pick up and drop off location for school-age children.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current

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certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
One staff member is past due (as of end of 2/2026) for recertification for Mandatory Reporter. This person also did not get any 2025 professional development training. Six hours minimum is required. This consultant spoke to this staff person about needing to get Mandatory Reporter done asap.

109.9(2)h: Signed and dated valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization, provided by the department must be on file for each child enrolled as required by Iowa Administrative Code 641—7.
One child did not have their immunization record signed/dated. All other immunizations observed were signed/dated.

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Two children were past due for physicals. THIS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE NOW FOR THREE YEARS IN A ROW.

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing.
Sheets are needed for all children who nap on cots. It was noted that new sheets are on order.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
1. The sunscreen bottles being stored in a lower unlocked cabinet need to be moved to an area inaccessible to school-age children and/or the lower cabinet needs to have a lock on it.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Frozen pizzas (Jacks and other similar brand pizzas) are not credible per CACFP guidelines.

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

The below standards identified should be corrected as soon as possible and before next year's inspection. The one staff member past due for Mandatory Reporter should have this completed by end of May, 2026.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon was last tested in all classroom 5/23/25 - 5/27/25. All classrooms came back with radon levels 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. THE NEXT TESTING IS DUE NO LATER THAN END OF 5/2030.

The last annual furnace inspection on file was from 5/6/26.

IQ4K and I - Power were again discussed at the visit. All staff seem to have I - Power profiles. If any staff is no longer employed at the center, they should be unlinked from the center's I - Power contacts. Mandatory Reporter as well as First-Aid/CPR will always need to be manually uploaded.

It is again recommended that if there is enough room, dividers be put up between toilets for the three, four, and five year old

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children restrooms so these children can have more privacy when using the restroom (still with staff supervision).

It was noted that one child toilet in one of the restrooms was broken and not being used. A work order has already been entered prior to the center's inspection.

As mentioned in the above report, there are at least two bolts that need another nut on each of them (bolts connecting the fence and sidewalk together) so that no more than two threads showing.

It was noted that one child file reviewed needed another annual update by that child's parents/guardian.

Dependent Adult Abuse also needs to be checked for staff record checks (SING). The record checks recently completed will need to be redone to include DA.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent in on 5/20/26.

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Date: 05/21/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.