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

Name of Center: Little Sprouts Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 87 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51477

Street: 1003 23rd ST **City:** Milford Iowa **Zip** 51351 **County:** Dickinson

Mailing Address: 1003 23rd ST, Milford, IA, 51351

Director's Name: Amanda Schwery **Phone Number:** 712-338-2349

On-Site Supervisor(s): Derek Schwery **E-Mail:** littlesproutsmilford@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-24-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-02-2021

Comments :

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	45	26	26	37	134
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 05-28-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 05-24-24 and spoke Amanda Schwery, Director. Ms Schwery has an elementary education degree and 20 years of experience working with children. She has her masters in early childhood and special needs. Little Sprouts Learning center is a center that is in a former strip mall and remodeled specifically for childcare. Center moved into the building 06-02-21. Capacity is 134. Center serves infants 6 weeks to school age. Center has five rooms, a infant room for non-mobile area (6 weeks to 9 months) and mobile area (9months to 2 years); 2 year room; 3 year room; PK room and school age room. The center has 87 children enrolled. At the time of the visit 67 children were present. The center changed their hours from 6:15am to 7:00am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday.

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 contineus in cleaning toys daily that children use.

The center has the following areas throughout the rooms for the children to explore and learn: toys, books, cars, kitchen, puzzles and blocks. During this visit observed the children participating in the following activities: free play(during this time children can explore the various centers throughout the room), lunch, outside time, and stories read to the children. Children have access to bathrooms. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Observed staff engaging children in conversations throughout the day, playing with the children, reminding children of the rules, singing songs, reading stories to the children and sitting with the children during mealtimes. Staff interact with the children in a positive manner and actively help them in all their endeavors. The center uses Experience Early Learning Curriculm. The center had a couple of bathroom sinks that were not working and need to get them fixed. The center did have sinks outside the room that they use for bathroom handwashing and disinfects when done with bathroom breaks. The center swithced from using the Procare app to the Bright Wheel app in February 2024. The program also closed 2x per year to do professional development trainings for their staff.

Meals are prepared at the center. The center has a full kitchen and the center is not eligible for the food program, however, follows the CACFP program. The program rotates menus every 2 weeks. Menu was posted. The center uses organic foods when preparing meals.

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Heating is all electric. Radon tests completed and within normal range. Good sanitary procedures are followed. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a fenced-in playground adjacent to the center which is still under construction. The playground is fenced and has 3 separate playgrounds for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers on up. The Playground has climbing equipment with turf for surfacing. The center recently put up new shade structures that were on back order for the 3 seperate play areas.

The center goes on walks. The center does have a music room, sensory room with climbing wall, and a game room.

Transportation:
The Center has two 14 passenger vans to help in transporting children from the main center to the new center. Van has seat belts designed for children 2 and up. The program will transport kids to school and on field trips. The program takes PK and school agers to various activities in the area.

The director feels her strengths is the center's core staff and leadership team. Staff have a good relationship with the children/parent's and work good as a team. Most of her core staff have completed PBIS training. Center has security system, Bright wheel app, kinder music, STEM, and sensory room.

Goals of the center: The center would like to get more qualified staff for the center as staffing at times continues to be an issue. The program is working on getting on the IQ4K program, complete a stage area fro the playground and more turf for surfacing.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Staff showed strong interactions with the children and participated in the children's activities.

Center uses Experience Early Learning curriculum.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center’s care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 2
Information lacking: Information was missing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center needs to email consultant by 06-30-24 confirming that all aspects have been corrected.
A full license is recommended at this time.
At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.