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

Name of Center: Lil' Grease Monkey Childcare **Enrollment:** 3 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52634

Street: 808 W Thomas AVE **City:** Shenandoah Iowa **Zip** 51601 **County:** Page

Mailing Address: 808 W Thomas AVE, Shenandoah, IA, 51601

Director's Name: Hannah Rief **Phone Number:** 712-581-9003

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** lilgreasemonkeychildcare@aol.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-15-2025

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:** 08-29-2024

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

Date Inspected: 08-20-2024

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	8	14	9	6	37
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 05-21-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Lil' Grease Monkey Childcare on 5-15-2025. The center opened on September 16, 2024. The center is located in the business district in Shenandoah Iowa. Child care services are provided to children infant age to school age. The hours are 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday. Hannah Rief is the director. There are twenty two enrolled. I met with Hannah during my licensing visit.

Observation of rooms:
The center is decorated with a fun automotive theme. The center is one large open room separated into program areas according to ages of children (Hannah has been give information on ratio and age of separation of children). There is a wonderful variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. There are two sinks in the main area of the center, one sink is used for hand washing after diaper changing and the other sink with be used for meal prep. Fourteen children were present during my visit, the center was in ratio. The center has a daily schedule, they are using The Montessori Book and for the older children The Giant Encyclopedia of Lesson Plans for their curriculum. It would be beneficial to receive consultation/training on developing lesson plans/activities.
The center has a laundry room.
There were several safe sleep/health and safety violations noted. The crib mattresses need a tight fitted sheet, a baby changing pad with velcro was being used. Hannah said she can't find sheets for the crib mattresses. There were toys and cloth mat with mobile attached in the crib. Nothing belongs in the crib but the child. There were pillows on the floor in the infant area, please use a large rug on the floor - Hannah said all the rugs were in the wash.
Your program should develop better lesson plans/activities. Screen time needs to be monitored and not used very often, during my whole visit a TV was on with child programming. It was a nice day on my visit and I would recommend that you have staff take the children outside to your playground area.
Staff aren't knowledgeable of DHHS rules, disinfecting, safe sleep, lesson planning, etc. Consultation and training is needed for all staff.

The center has experienced some staff turn over recently, including the on-site supervisor. Hannah explained that when she had a on-site supervisor she wasn't spending very much time in the center, but she was in the building next to the center and was available if needed. She is now spending more time in the center everyday and she is planning to hire an on-site supervisor. I am recommending that you work in the center full time, as you need to become knowledgeable of all child care rules and daily operations of running a child care center. You shouldn't leave your center under the supervision of someone else until you know they have the correct skills to manage your program - this can take several months.

Nutrition:
The center has a kitchen and meals are prepared on-site, they have a convection oven, microwave etc. (no gas or electric oven) Hannah has been planning the menus and she is following the CACFP food program guidelines. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and safety:
Medication management procedures will be followed when a child in prescribed medication. Fire/tornado drills were

practiced and documented. Hannah reported that the building has all electric appliances. Please refer to the DHHS handbook on information regarding radon testing and the frequency of testing.
Staff weren't properly disinfecting the diaper changing tables. You need the diaper changing procedure posted at all diaper changing stations. You will need to discuss different product options for sanitizing as the product you are using isn't approved for child care centers - it was the pink sanitizer from Sams Club. The toddler diaper changing table is too small. Make sure you are following the three bottle procedure for sanitizing and disinfecting 1. Soap/water for cleaning 2. Water for rinsing and 3. You EPA and child care approved products for sanitizing and disinfecting. (Three separate bottles for sanitizing and disinfecting) If you are using bleach/water follow the directions on the specific bottle of bleach you are using or on the product website.

Playground:
The center has a fenced playground area located down the alley. There is a swing set with rubber mulch surfacing, other items are on the rubber mulch. Hannah said they will be installing a new swing set. Swing sets can be difficult to have as they require twice the height of the swing set in the front and back for surfacing and clearance, fall zone etc. I believe there are better options for your playground over a swing set as your space is limited. They have a gazebo, green space and they are building a green house. They are growing vegetables in pots. If you have equipment that is over 18" you will need surfacing. Please refer to the handbook for public playgrounds for information on surfacing, equipment, fall zones etc. I previously discussed outdoor classrooms, nature environment etc. with Hannah. (Swing sets can be difficult to have as they require twice the height of the swing set in the front and back for surfacing and clearance).
Daily checks for debris on the playground are needed, as well as your walking path to your playground through the alley.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. The center will go on walking field trips.

Administrative records:
Child files were read - one file needed emergency contact information for the dentist, names and phone numbers are required for the doctor and the dentist. One child needed a current physical. Please review all child files and make sure they have the DHHS required information.
You can use the annual statement of health for school age children.
Staff files were read and were in good order. If a record check says further research required you need to wait until the record check is clear before the person can be hired. You need to go back in the system to print the complete record check. If a staff has a conviction you will need to complete the evaluation process before the staff can begin employment.
Hannah said she maintains daily contact with staff and will have staff meetings.
Hanna has received assistance from resource and referral.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Hannah is very enthusiastic and proud of her new child care center. She continues to learn the DHHS rules and regulations. Please read the handbook
Hannah would like to apply for IQ4K.
Your new center is a wonderful resource for the community.
Staff had good interactions with the children, they were positive and nurturing.

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

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.
Information lacking: Please review all children's files and make sure they have the name and phone number for the doctor and the dentist. One child file needed the dentist information.

109.10(1)a: 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, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
One child needed a current physical. Please review all child files and make sure they have the DHHS required information.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: Staff weren't properly disinfecting the diaper changing table. Please move clean bottles/cups, food away from the diaper changing hand washing sink - this is cross contamination. The toddler diaper changing table is too small for those children.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
There were several safe sleep/health and safety violations noted. The crib mattresses need a tight fitted sheet, a baby changing pad with velcro was being used. Hannah said she can't find sheets for the crib mattresses. There were toys and cloth mat with mobile attached in the crib. Nothing belongs in the crib but the child. There were pillows on the floor in the infant area, please use a large rug on the floor - Hannah said all the rugs were in the wash.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 9-1-2024 to 9-1-2026.
Off year licensing visit 5-15-2025.

A referral to Child Care Resource and Referral and the child care nurse consultant will be made as consultation and training are needed in several areas: sanitizing/disinfecting, safe sleep, lesson planning - daily programming, screen time, licensing rules, playground equipment, becoming knowledgeable in the jobs staff are doing.

*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.