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

Name of Center: LINK Grinnell **Enrollment:** 155 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50749

Street: 818 Hamilton AVE **City:** Grinnell Iowa **Zip** 50112 **County:** Poweshiek

Mailing Address: 818 Hamilton AVE, Grinnell, IA, 50112

Director's Name: Ashley Risting **Phone Number:** 641-236-2790

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** director@linkgrinnell.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-21-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 08-24-2022

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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				150	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 07-16-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

LINK Grinnell opened in September 2019. LINK is a non-profit organization in Grinnell. This daycare is one program of LINK. The center is located in Davis Elementary. The center uses several classrooms, the gym and the outdoor playground for program space. The center serves school age children and is open on a year round basis. Ashley Risting is the director. Ashley has a BS in Secondary Education. Ashley has been employed with LINK since 2021. Ashley was an assistant director prior to becoming director.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to DHS licensing rules were reviewed. The center had a schedule and lesson plan available for viewing. This week's theme was "Senses". There are several classrooms and a few areas used within the school by the center, each having a subject/topic: a gaming/iPad room, reading/literacy room, learning center room, history and science room, arts and crafts room, "on the move" room (gym and playground) and free choice room (cafeteria). Children rotate between the classrooms every thirty to forty-five minutes.

Ashley Risting was present and she assisted with the visit. There were seventy one children present today. There were eleven staff working today. There were eleven volunteers from AmeriCorp also present at the center. Children were observed in all the program areas and also outdoors. During programming, children are often divided into eight groups. Children were observed making playdough and other crafts in the art room. Children had made bubble makers and were using the bubble makers outdoors. Children were reading books individually and in small groups in some rooms. Children were playing a large group game in a few classrooms. All classrooms were above ratio requirements. Staff were providing assistance and were actively engaged with the children in all the program rooms.

The school is a free meal site for Grinnell. Breakfast and lunch is served. Children are able to eat breakfast and lunch as part of the meal site or bring their own meals. The center provides morning and afternoon snacks. Menus reflect the snacks are in compliance with CACFP standards.

The center uses the school's playground. There are some climbing structures and pea gravel for surfacing. There is concrete and grass areas on the school grounds also.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

LINK has been providing child care for school age children for many years. This center has a good supply of age appropriate games and toys for the children. There are volunteers from Grinnell College and AmeriCorps who spend time with the children for literacy and art activities. Children are able to do large motor play activities with the use of the gym and playground.

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

There were no licensing violations cited during the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This center has a full license.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue.

*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.