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

Name of Center: Growing Patch Wrap Around Care **Enrollment:** 34 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52585

Street: 101 Palo RD **City:** Center Point Iowa **Zip** 52213 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 700 South ST, Urbana, IA, 52345

Director's Name: Jennifer Liedtke **Phone Number:** 319-981-7905

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jamee Wiebold **E-Mail:** growingpatch2017@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 09-24-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 05-30-2024

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			30	9	39
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: Amy Lyons **Date:** 10-25-2024

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Growing Patch Learning Center operates the following three programs throughout the Linn County community: The Growing Patch Learning Center (TGPLC), Growing Patch Summer Camp (GPSC) and Growing Patch Wrap Around Care (GPWAC). Specifically, this license is for GPWAC located inside Center Point Elementary School which is part of the Center Point Community School District. GPAWC is a profit program which commenced operations on 8/26/2024. GPWAC operates primarily school-year only with the ability to operate some summers. GPWAC operates Monday through Friday 6:30am to 5:30pm. The program offers childcare to preschool and school-age children. Current enrollment is 34.

Multi-site original founding owner and director is Jennifer Liedtke. Ms. Liedtke has a BS degree in secondary education, has a current State of Iowa teaching license, has over 10 years of experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training. On-site supervisor Jamee Wiebold has been employed by TGLP since 2019, has an AS degree in Early Childhood Education and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 9/24/2024, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

TGPLC, GPSC and GPWAC offer a variety of early learning programming and childcare to help meet the needs of children and families in the community. The programs are located in predominantly rural areas and accept a variety of funding sources. In March 2024, TGPLC celebrated their 7th year of business. Congratulations! GPWAC is the newest location commencing operations on 8/26/24.

TGPLC, GPSC and GPWAC sponsor a social media page for those in the community to learn more about their programs.

The mission of TGPLC, GPSC and GPWAC is "…to provide a safe, developmentally appropriate environment for infants, toddlers, preschool and school-aged children….focus is to provide a stimulating early care and educational experience which promotes each child's social/emotional, physical, and cognitive development…our goal is to support each child's desire to be lifelong learners."

These programs participates in quality initiatives including CACFP and IQ4K. TGPLC achieved IQ4K 3-Star. The program has historically been recognized for their support of CPU high school students.

Ms. Liedtke is a local entrepreneur invested in children and the community. Ownership and management (e.g. multi-site owner and director Ms. Liedtke, on-site supervisors) of TGPLC, GPSC and GPWAC have remained consistent. Management is organized, and in turn, the programs operate smoothly. The programs have noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed and maintained as required. Management team (e.g. Ms. Liedtke, Nicole Hellberg, Jamee Wiebold) is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Ms. Liedtke reported having several staff with early childhood degrees who are trained in PBIS. The program supports onboarding of new employees within the first 90 days which includes the required trainings as well as training in curriculum and CACFP. Documentation reviewed indicates staff professional growth continues to exceed licensing requirements. The program utilities TEACH and Wage$. Ms. Liedtke talked about how she is investing in her employees by encouraging professional goals, offering flexible scheduling whenever possible, offering competitive wages/benefits, incorporating a training based pay scale, displaying staff appreciation whenever possible, and having teacher work/professional development days built into the year.

TGPLC, GPSC and GPWAC have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The programs have successfully navigated through the 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, 2022 infant formula shortages, 2023 air quality alerts and 7/19/24 global technology outage.

GPWAC has a collaborative partnership with the school district. School custodial staff, school administration, school nurse, and school food service personnel help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day. The school kitchen is inspected at least annually by the health department. There is an AED on-site. Historically, these programs have partnered with the CPU school district for swimming lessons and summer school activities as needed. Management and staff talk favorably about the programs' continued relationship with the school including commencement of their newest GPWAC program.

GPWAC's primary space is located inside room #406 and #409. Classrooms are arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Curriculum is Learning Beyond Paper which aligns well with Iowa's ELS. Ms. Liedtke acknowledged how their programs have a full-time curriculum coordinator who holds an early childhood degree and helps teachers plan, implement and carryout curriculum. Curriculum also incorporates off-site field trip experiences, on-site guest speaker events, enrichment activities, themed days, and holiday/seasonal parties.

GPWAC offers optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program is establishing an organized parent-staff/program information center, has a place to display children's accomplishments (including artwork) for families to enjoy, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities.

TGPLC, GPSC and GPWAC collaborate well with community partners including Child Care Resource and Referral, local AEA, local school district, local businesses, city recreational department, and health professionals.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. This program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Area of study includes "All about Me". Activities observed were many (e.g. center play experiences, outdoor large gross motor play). Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, snack rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement, utilizing positive redirection when needed and encouraging the use of social graces. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to collaborate with the school regarding outdoor playground maintenance.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

*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.