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

**Name of Center:** Little Bulldog Child Care **Enrollment:** 66 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19204

**Street:** 704 S Page St **City:** Monona Iowa **Zip** 52159 **County:** Clayton

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 163, Monona, IA, 52159

**Director's Name:** Ashley Lograsso **Phone Number:** 563-539-4966

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Amy Kruse **E-Mail:** littlebulldog@mflmm.k12.ia.us

**Date(s) of Visit:** 06-09-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

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

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

**Date Inspected:** 10-14-2021

**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:** 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 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 28 | 67 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 4

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Becky Frost **Date:** 06-26-2023

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

N/A

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

On 06/09/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Little Bulldog Childcare Center in Monona. I met with Ashley Lograsso, the director. She started in April 2021 and became the director in June 2022. Ms. Lograsso completed classes to earn her CDA. She is NAC certified. She had a non-registered home for four years and has business experience. Amy Kruse is the on-site supervisor. She has a BS in secondary education in special education with a reading and math endorsement. She has been with the center for twelve years. She was hired in April 2021. The center employs 17 staff members.

Little Bulldog Childcare Center opened in Monona on 07/16/07. It is in a free-standing building. The childcare center is a non-profit organization. The childcare center was built as an addition to the school. The center provides childcare and a three-year-old preschool program. The childcare center serves children birth through school age and operates Monday through Friday 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. The center is licensed for 67 children and currently has 66 children enrolled. The Head Start program is also located in a classroom within the childcare center and is licensed separately. The program has a Quality Rating System level of 4, which expires on 02/28/24. The program partners with Keystone AEA to provide services for children with identified needs.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room, toddler room (18 months through two-years-old), a preschool room (three through five-years-old) and a school-age room. An inspection of each room was completed. The rooms were in ratio during my visit. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children.

A variety of resources are used to create lesson plans. The preschool and the school age teachers use the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. The toddlers use the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources. Activities are based on weekly themes. Each teacher is responsible for developing their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review.

The center uses ProCare to complete daily sheets for the children under two years old. They also use it to communicate with all the families.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits. The evacuation diagram must be posted near both doors in the infant room. This was cited in last year's report also. A daily schedule was posted for each

room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Fire drills and tornado drills should be practiced on separate dates. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in June 2023 and is good for two years. The program is waiting for the results. The previous results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in the entrance near the staff computer. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/14/21.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Meals are made on-site. The program currently does not have a cook. Meals are served in the classroom and dishes are returned to the kitchen to be put through the industrial dishwasher. There are also three sinks in the kitchen to use the three-step method if necessary. They use a four-week rotation of menus. The food services director for the school makes the menus for the childcare center. There is a refrigerator, upright freezer and a chest freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Please keep the thermometer in the chest freezer in a location where it can be checked by staff regularly. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

During the summer months the childcare prepares everything on the menus. During the school year the school cafeteria will make the casseroles or bigger items and provide it to the center.

The center offers infants one brand of formula or parents can bring what they prefer. The center provides baby food and cereal. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be put through the dishwasher.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the eating tables. They are currently out of Oxivir Tb, so they are also using it to disinfect the changing tables. This product is not labeled as a disinfectant. You must use another product. Ms. Lograsso states she just returned from maternity leave and the center must have run out of Oxivir Tb while she was gone. She will order some immediately and they will use a different disinfectant on changing tables until they have it. Additionally, in the toddler room they are not always using soap and water on the tables prior to the sanitizer or disinfectant. This must always occur.

I observed diaper changes and proper procedures are followed. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks and diaper changing procedures were posted near all the changing tables as required.

Cots are used to nap.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

There is a fenced in outdoor play area adjacent to the center for infant, toddler and preschoolers. This area is also used by the Head Start children. Rubber tiles are installed in this area for surface cushioning and trees provide shade. There are also woodchips. There is climbing equipment with small slides. There is a playhouse, rocking bee and a rocking ladybug. There is also a sandbox, playhouse and a picnic table. The rubber tiles in this area are starting to curl, but the program has a plan to repair them.

There is a second area in the back of the program for preschool children. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There are swings and climbing equipment, including slides, games and a bicycle merry-go-round. There is a small grassy area. There is limited shade in this area.

The school-age children use the school playground and there is also an open grassy area that can be used. There is climbing equipment in two locations. They have slides, rings, a bridge, and bars. There is also an area with six swings. In these two locations woodchips are used for surface cushioning. Woodchips must be routinely raked to fill areas below the swings and slide. Trees provide shade.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. In the infant room they were observed to be nurturing and attentive. They had good knowledge of the children's schedules. They were rocking children and sat on the floor with the children. Staff members state they take the children on a lot of walks. In the other rooms the staff members interacted with the children at their level. They were actively playing and engaging in activities with the children. They provided the children with clear directions and talked with the children about using their words to communicate. I observed staff members give the children hugs and encourage them. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the center.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The program has a Quality Rating System (QRS) level of 4 that expires on 02/28/24.

Rooms have plentiful activities in their centers for the children to enjoy.

Ms. Lograsso states she loves being the director. She states she feels like she is meant to be in this role. She is organized and worked hard to meet the credentials to be the director. She took multiple trainings, earned her CDA and completed the NAC certification course.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in the rooms.

The school-age children take multiple field trips during the summer.

Ms. Lograsso states they have several educated staff members. They have licensed teachers, and the staff members are motivated to do more, such as take advantage of TEACH and Wages.

Ms. Lograsso states they do not have a lot of turnovers. Staff members are dedicated and committed to the program and the children then care for. They try to go above and beyond for them.

Ms. Lograsso states the teachers provide a structured routine for the children and this allows their days to run smoothly.

There are pictures of the staff members in the entrance. There are multiple pictures of the children in the hallway.

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

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: The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the eating tables. They are currently out of Oxivir Tb, so they are also using it to disinfect the changing tables. This product is not labeled as a disinfectant. You must use another product. Ms. Lograsso states she just returned from maternity leave and the center must have run out of Oxivir Tb while she was gone. She will order some immediately and they will use a different disinfectant on changing tables until they have it. Additionally, in the toddler room they are not always using soap and water on the tables prior to the sanitizer or disinfectant. This must always occur.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.