Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Tigers Clubhouse - Gilbert

Provider No.: 51456

Address: 105 Ammerman ST, Gilbert, IA, 50105

County: Story

Director's Name: Elizabeth Miner

On-Site Supervisor: Rebekah Shield/Megan Wenger

Phone Number: 5152333005

E-Mail: gilbert1@littletigerslearning.com anika@littletigerslearning.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/08/2025

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/28/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Seth Jones-Dept of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL).

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	36	11	47	22	116
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A unannounced full licensing visit was completed 9-8-25. The director was present throughout the visit.

Little Tigers Clubhouse opened in Gilbert June 2021. Anika Blum is the owner of this center, as well as two other centers in Adel, Iowa. The center has sole occupancy of this building which was also built in 2021.

The center director is Elizabeth Miner, assuming this role in 2023. Elizabeth has several years of prior director experience and several college level courses; along with several years of childcare experience. Rebekah (Bekah) Shield is the assistant dir/on-site supervisor. Bekah has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family Services and childcare experience. Both meet the qualifications. Megan Wenger is also listed as an on-site supervisor. Both meet the requirements for their positions.

The center utilizes Frog Street Curriculum. This curriculum also ties in Conscious Discipline and is a well rounded curriculum with social, emotional and academic properties for ages infant up to preschool. The center also has an application to communicate with families with daily activities. Teachers were consistently observed to be engaged with the children in the classroom. Teachers were observed to work as a team and children were content. Classrooms were organized and displayed art work by the children or teachers with a good variety of play centers and toys.

Little Tigers is participating in the Wages Program (Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa); and also in the TEACH Programe (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children).

Little Tigers has attained Level I in IQ4K, and the director indicated application for level IV is in progress. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school.

The center provides two daily snacks and Lunch, which is prepared daily on-site by a dedicated kitchen staff. Menus are inline with CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) guidelines and rotate with seasons. Meals are served family-style in the classrooms.

The playground is enclosed and has separate areas of play appropriate for different ages.

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Teachers accompany children to and back from school; there is a van for transportation used when classes have field trips. This center works cooperatively with the school for all day care as well.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center has developed a relationship with the school district and with AEA. The center partners well with AEA and has had AEA come out for observations of classrooms and this has been a support for the teachers.

This center has a secure entrance and on-site cameras for quality assurance.

The classrooms are set up well to ensure close supervision and interest.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children. At least two changing pads were observed to have a broken down surface that completely compromises cleaning/disinfecting/sanitization and were in need of replacement. There was debris underneath several of the changing pads. The director indicated that new changing mats would be ordered and reminders for diligent cleaning/disinfecting/sanitization to continue.

109.13(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.Staff preparing food that have injuries on hands wear protective gloves.Staff serving food use clean serving utensils and have clean hands/wear protective gloves. The kitchen counter (comprised of solid surface) and used for food preparation/organization contained a large crack through the width of the solid surface, about 1 foot by 1 foot area. This caused remnants of food preparation to remain in the crack in the surface, which diminishes any cleaning/sanitizing that is completed. Replacement or effective repair is recommended to maintain proper food preparation.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The building is newer construction and radon testing was completed 10/23 with all rooms testing below 4.0 cutoff.

A new two year full license is recommended.

There was discussion with moving the sound machines in the infant room; that were observed on the floor while in use along with two older infants that were mobile and could have accessed the sound machine and cord. The director indicated new placement would be found, out of reach such as a shelf or a top a counter/fridge so limiting access.

Date: 09/08/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson

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Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.