Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Pirates Preschool

Provider No.: 22900

Address: 226 Eldora Rd, Hudson, IA, 50643

County: Black Hawk

Director's Name: Darlene Taylor

On-Site Supervisor: Darlene Taylor

Phone Number: 7016801574

E-Mail: littlepiratespreschool@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 01/16/2025

Licensing Period: 02/01/2025 to 02/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/05/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	20	0	20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 01/16/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Pirates Preschool in Hudson. I met with Tera Gunnarson, the director and lead teacher. She was previously employed as an assistant in the program since August 2021 and was named the director in July 2022. Ms. Gunnarson has a BA in elementary education and several years of experience in teaching. Darlene Taylor is the assistant in the program. Ms. Taylor started in October 2023.

The preschool is in Hudson Elementary. The preschool operates Monday through Friday from 8:15-11:15 am. The program serves children who are three through five-years-old. Children can attend three, four or five days each week. There are currently 30 children enrolled.

The preschool operates out of one classroom. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes and numbers. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, woodworking, puppets, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, listening, 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. The room is decorated for the theme.

There is a sink in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted. The program has use of a bathroom across the hall from them with one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to create lesson plans. Alphatales is one of the resources used for letters. The activities are planned around weekly or bi-weekly themes. There is an Epson projector in the classroom. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program door.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills.

The program only walks around the school track. Playground inspections are not necessary.

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A radon test was completed in January 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. A radon test is due this month.

The fuel burning inspection was completed by the school and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the entrance. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/10/23, with compliance on 04/04/23.

The program has parents provide a snack to their own children. The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The teachers check the snack each day to make sure it follows CACFP guidelines. The program can supplement if necessary. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. No dishwashing is required, as disposable products are used. There is a refrigerator in the room and a thermometer was present.

The center uses Sani-Tyze Food Contact Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. 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 of the school.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. There was one outdated physical and one invalid immunization certificate because it was not on the mandated Department of Health and Human Services certificate. This will not be cited because there was not a pattern of disregard.

I reviewed two staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members had fantastic teamwork. Staff members have a terrific relationship with one another and that carries over to the care of the children. They are enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Positive redirection is used when necessary. Staff members provide the children with a good routine and used play to teach the children. They were actively engaged in circle time with the children. The children were laughing and enjoying themselves. Staff members had good knowledge of the children's developmental needs and social-emotional needs. I always enjoy visiting this program.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Gunnarson states they have good communication with the parents. They use texts and emails.

Ms. Gunnarson states between her and her assistant, Ms. Taylor, they bring a lot of enthusiasm to the program. They are excited to see the children every day.

Ms. Gunnarson states the program is moving next year into Community Church in Hudson.

Ms. Gunnarson states the four-year-old children can ride the bus to school in the morning if they have a sibling. The three and four-year-old children can ride the bus after class if they are going to a certified childcare.

The day of my visit the librarian came to the room to read a couple books to the children.

Ms. Gunnarson states they have a lot of one-on-one individualized activities for the children.

The program offers a variety of centers and the children do not get bored. The room is designed around the theme.

The preschool has a Facebook page.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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

An administrative change is being made to name a new director. Darlene Taylor is the new director. She started on 12/15/25.
An administrative change is also being made to change the capacity to 20 children.

Date: 01/06/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.