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

Name of Center: Little Tigers Learning Center, LLC **Enrollment:** 112 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49985

Street: 1720 Nile Kinnick DR S **City:** Adel Iowa **Zip** 50003 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 1720 Nile Kinnick DR S, Adel, IA, 50003

Director's Name: Anika Blum and Kassy Hegland **Phone Number:** 515-993-1038

On-Site Supervisor(s): Emily Moen, Michelle Heater, Sebastion Steelman **E-Mail:** anika@littletigersadel.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-10-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-27-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-03-2021

Comments : State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	33	19	91	0	143
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2022 to 08-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-11-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 7/10/23. The owner, director, and a couple of the on-site supervisors were present for this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Little Tigers Learning Center is a center in Adel, IA that was given permission to open on 6/4/18. The center serves children six weeks in age through five years in age using the learning curriculum, Frog Street. There are total of eight classrooms.

Anika Blum is the owner and also a director of the center. Anika has a BA degree and has past experience working in respite and residential care. Kassy Hegland is also a director. Kassy was previously an on-site supervisor. Emily Moen, Michelle Heater and Sebastion Steelman are the on-site supervisors at this center and they all meet the requirements for on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, washing their hands, sitting down to eat lunch, having water play outside, and then getting ready for afternoon naps. Staff were engaged in all child activities and providing close supervision.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center meets a need in a growing community. Enrollment continues to increase.

All staff wear center sponsored shirts.

The center was very clean and nicely decorated. There was good lighting throughout the building.

There is a secure entrance. The center is using the Pro-Care system for staff and parents to sign in and out of the center. There is also a security surveillance system in place.

There is a maternity room for breast feeding mothers.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

There is a good mix of experienced and new staff. The owner stated she felt her staff continued to work well with each other and were a solid team.

The day to day director is organized.

The center uses an online application for daily sheets.

Infants have individualized lesson plans.

Alarms have been installed on playground gates.

The center uses walkie talkies when in different parts of the building and/or outside for better communication.

There is a staff lounge for breaks. Staff are also eligible for certain benefits.

The center is starting the process of IQ4K which is voluntary and based on best practice.

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

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
In 2022, there were three months where fire and/or tornado drills were not recorded.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
In some areas of the playground, the black under tarp/mesh is exposed creating a potential tripping hazard.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The weekly lesson plan in the three/four year old classroom was not available on the day of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

For transportation and field trips, the center owns three company vans throughout the three programs owned by Anika Blum. For bigger field trips, the center will contract with the school district for a bus and bus driver. At the time of the visit, none of the vans were on site. The vans are serviced regularly.

Radon testing was last conducted 5/27/21 - 5/31/21. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

It was previously noted that the carbon monoxide detectors are built in.

The last furnace inspection on file was from 12/7/22.

IQ4K and I - Power were discussed at 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.