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

Name of Center: Lakes Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 138 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51907

Street: 225 E Vista Lake AVE **City:** Polk City Iowa **Zip** 50226 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 225 E Vista Lake AVE, Polk City, IA, 50226

Director's Name: Emily Feldman **Phone Number:** 515-452-0560

On-Site Supervisor(s): Katelynn Joynes/Anne Sutter **E-Mail:** emily@lakeselc.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-22-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-02-2024

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

Date Inspected: 07-14-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years/"does comply" by DIAL

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 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	30	14	46	60	150
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-02-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing was completed 11-22-24. Director/Owner Emily Feldman was present for the entire visit.

This center is new construction in 2022 and has sole occupancy of a building designed specifically for a child care center. Emily Feldman is the director and owner. Emily has a Bachelor's degree in Business management and Spanish. Emily has two prior years experience in a childcare setting, with prior director experience. Emily meets qualifications to be the director. There are on-site supervisors; Katelynn (Katie) Joynes, Anne Sutter; Both started when the center opened. Katie has 10 prior years of experience in childcare settings. Anne has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family services, as well as a Mater's degree in school counseling. Anne has prior experience in a childcare setting. Both meet the criteria for their positions.

The center serves children age 6 weeks up to 5th grade. The hours are from 6:30 AM to 5:45 PM Monday through Friday.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations/Activities: The center is using 2nd Step, Pocket of Preschool; Learning without tears for handwriting and conscious discipline in curriculum. The center focuses on play based learning, and addresses the social and emotional developmental needs of the children as well as academic/learning needs. The lead teachers complete lesson plans. The center offers a good variety of play centers and toys in each classroom. The classrooms were in ratio. Teachers were observed to engaged with leading group activities or supervising independent play. The children appear content and freely approach staff when they needed. It should be noted that a couple of the changing tables were noted to have compromised surfaces which the director indicated was realized to be a manufacturing fault and she is awaiting warranty replacement.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and dedicated kitchen staff. The kitchen was very clean and organized. Menus are on a 4-week rotation and in-line with CACFP guidelines. Meals are served family-style in the rooms. The center provides AM/PM snacks and lunch. Menus are posted throughout the center.

Health and Safety: Medication at the center is stored securely in a cabinet accessible to staff; emergency medications are located in the child's classroom first aid back pack for quick access; each staff is charged with knowing which, if any, children in their classroom has allergies and may require emergency medications. Handwashing signs were consistently posted throughout the center. There were first aid kits readily available. Oxivir/Bleach Water and Soapy water are used to clean/sanitize. Fire/Tornado emergency plans were posted and emergency drills were documented to have been completed monthly. Radon was completed 11/2022, showing results all under 4.0 cutoff. HVAC is inspected annually, this is a newer system. Carbon monoxide detectors are on site. This center is very clean and nicely organized.

This center has an emergency/disaster plan and supplies. This plan is reviewed by staff upon hire and at least yearly or

during staff meetings.

Playground: Playground is divided by ages, enclosed with chain link with artificial grass and safety surfacing of mulch. There is natural shade and a large shade structure. The property on which the center is located, includes a treed area, that the children are allowed to explore with staff supervision. Discussion took place to shore up the area of the treed area "bridge approaches" to prevent injury from the steel bridge.

Transportation/field trips: This center offers before/after school transportation via a 15-passenger bus and a 44 passenger bus. The center has professional maintenance regularly.

Administrative review: Information regarding Mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, and non-smoking signs are conspicuously posted as required along with emergency exit plans. Ten child files were reviewed and contained all the required information; Eight employee files; all files contained most necessary/required information with one file reflecting an employee physical having been completed after hire (this is required prior to hire). The center has an established policy and the director reviews the policy regularly to ensure best practice.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Lakes Early Learning Center has attained Level 3 on IQ4K rating system (quality).

The classrooms have good room arrangement and set up, with ease of movement and age appropriate toys/materials and centers for the children.

There is strong communication between staff and families, with strong enrollment and sometimes a wait list.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center owner has been able to recruit and retain staff, the center is fully staffed.

The director/owner is very organized and is passionate about providing quality childcare.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1

*physical is required with in six months PRIOR to hire.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has created a written emergency preparedness plan and an emergency disaster kit which is reviewed by staff upon hire and every few months.

The center's menu reflects the center is following CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in November of 2022 and all rooms fell under the 4.0 cutoff.

The center is newer construction; HVAC was inspected 11-4-24.

*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.