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

Name of Center: Little Wonders Child Care & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 94 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 33397

Street: 145 NE Dartmoor DR **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 145 NE Dartmoor DR, Waukee, IA, 50263

Director's Name: Emily Steele **Phone Number:** 515-987-0443

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jamie Skillen **E-Mail:** emily@littlewondersweb.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-01-2023

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:** 04-13-2022

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

Date Inspected: 10-11-2022

Comments : Waukee Fire Marshal.

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*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	32	27	49	0	108
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2022 to 06-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-01-2023

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 5/1/23. The owner/director was present throughout 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 Wonders Child Care and Learning Center opened in July of 2010 in Waukee, IA and serves children ages eight weeks old through five years in age. The learning curriculum used by the center is a combination of the Creative Curriculum and the Saxon Curriculum. The center also implements Hand Writing Without Tears. The director/owner of this center is Emily Steele. Emily has previous business experience and was an in-home daycare provider for several years prior to becoming owner/director of this center. The on-site supervisor is Jamie Skillen. Jamie has an AA degree in General Education and has worked at this center for roughly six years.

There are five classrooms. The infant room has a capacity of 14 children. The one year old room has a capacity of 18 children. The two year old room has a capacity of 27 children. The three year old room has a capacity of 18 children. The four/five room has a capacity of 31 children.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, being bottle fed, being held, engaged in free choice play at different learning stations within classrooms, playing outside on the playground, and sitting down for story time with a book that was being read to them by staff.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is currently undergoing playground renovations with surfacing and equipment.

Children, based on their ages, are taught sign language, Spanish, and yoga.

Parent teacher conferences are held two times each year for children three through five years of age. Portfolios are also kept for children ages two through five and parents are given monthly updates on children's progress/activities.

Formal and quarterly staff meetings are held. Informal meetings are held more often between staff.

There is a secure entrance into the main center area. Parents are given a code. Other visitors have to ring a doorbell and be given access. There is also a camera security system in place at the center.

The director/owner of the center is organized.

Many tenured staff work at this center.

Staff pictures are posted outside of classrooms.

The center has received 100% on their immunization audits the past eight years in a row.

Good activities were observed in classrooms between staff and children. Classrooms were nicely decorated.

Staff and children files were very nicely organized.

Staff reportedly work well with each other and there is a real sense of teamwork.

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

109.9(2)f: All files contain parent authorization for attendance at center-sponsored field trips and non-center activities. If an inclusive authorization form for activities is used, a copy is kept on file at the center.
Number not in compliance with center-sponsored trips: 0
Number not in compliance with non-center activities: 2 child files needed to have the photograph permission statement marked.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is was last conducted on 4/21/23. If radon levels in classrooms come back below the 4.0 cutoff, the center can move to conducting radon every five years. If 4.0 or higher, retesting and a mitigation plan will be needed and the center will remain needing to test at least once more every two years.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 7/1/22.

The only field trips taken are walking field trips to local businesses and/or bringing agencies in for presentations to the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit.

A thermometer is needed in the refrigerator of the two year old classroom.

It is recommended that blankets not be stored near the sink in the two year old classroom.

*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.