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

Name of Center: Little Panther Daycare & Preschool **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6500

Street: 601 Panther Dr **City:** Panora Iowa **Zip** 50216 **County:** Guthrie

Mailing Address: PO Box 567, Panora, IA, 50216

Director's Name: Page Arganbright and Brooke Ramsey **Phone Number:** 641-755-3003

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heidi Huitt, Lindsie Schacherer, Kinze Laabs, Zakira Lowe, Heather Bielenberg **E-Mail:** littlepanther@netins.net

Date(s) of Visit: 07-31-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-07-2023

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

Date Inspected: 11-20-2023

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

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X 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	18	20	38	30	106
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-01-2024

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 7/31/24. The director was present throughout the majority of the 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.

Little Panther Daycare and Preschool is a childcare program located in Panora, IA. The center serves children ages four weeks old to 12 years in age. School-age children use the gym and cafeteria within the school which is located just up the hill and on the same property as the building were other children in the center are located. There are a total of six classrooms. The center uses a weekly, theme-based curriculum that incorporates several curriculums, including the Creative Learning Curriculum.

The center is overseen by a Board. Page Arganbright is the director of the center. Page was approved as the director on 8/8/17. Page has an AA degree and has past experience working in child care. Brooke Ramsey is the assistant director as of 7/31/18. Brooke has past experience working in child care. Heidi Huitt, Lindsie Schacherer, Kinzee Laabs, Zakira Lowe, and Heather Bielenberg are the on-site supervisors. All five individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed washing their hands, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, having tummy time, and eating lunch. Older children gave specific and sufficient answers as to where they relocate to for fire and tornado drills. Staff were spaced out in classrooms and actively engaged with children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

There is a secure entrance into the center. There are also security cameras.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

The center will provide a certain brand of formula to infants at no additional cost at parents' request.

At least quarterly staff meetings are held. The director also participates in quarterly meeting with other directors within the region.

The center participates in the food program -CACFP. The center employs a full-time cook.

A monthly newsletter is sent to parents via email.

Preschool is open to the public.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

Staff bios and pictures are posted within the center.

The center has a website and a Facebook page. They also use the online app, Brightwheel.

There is a full basement area for extra storage and for staff and children to go for weather related events.

The director continues to feel that she had a good mix of tenured and new staff and they all work well together.

The directors are organized.

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

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. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
1. There still remains a broken piece on the jacks climber from last year on the school-age playground. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR, BUT THE DIRECTOR STATED ALL CHILDREN KNOW THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY ON OR NEAR THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.
2. The black under tarp is still exposed in several areas of the school-age playground. THIS IS ALSO A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034. An annual HVAC inspection was missing on the day of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 9/2/22 - 9/6/22. 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.

The center transports children to field trips in their bus they purchased in 2022.

I - Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded.

It is recommended no Boppy pillows be used in the infant room unless there is a doctor's note for use.

A copy of the Mandatory Reporter notice and a copy of the center license should also be posted at the school-age classroom parent board. It was noted this consultant's information was posted.

*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.