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

Name of Center: Little River Hawks **Enrollment:** 67 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51148

Street: 439 Wilson ST **City:** Miles Iowa **Zip** 52064 **County:** Jackson

Mailing Address: 439 Wilson ST, Miles, IA, 52064

Director's Name: Taylor Olson **Phone Number:** 563-219-6343

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** taylor.olson@eastonvalleycsd.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-14-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 07-18-2023

Comments :

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	19	22	30	20	91
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Hungate **Date:** 06-09-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed at this center on 5/14/25. Taylor Olson is the center director and was present along with other staff on the day of this visit. Taylor accompanied the licensing consultant throughout the majority of the visit. This center is owned and operated by the Easton Valley School District. The center director reports to Chris Fee, the superintendent of the school district. The center occupies several rooms within the school building and offers care to children infant through school age on a year round basis including before and after school care. The center director notes that a portion of the before and after school care for school age children is provided by a grant that is exempt from child care licensing, however, the center continues to provide child care for some school age children when that program is not in session.

The center includes the following program rooms: Preschool room (three year old preschool, three through five year old child care), toddler room (18 months through three years), infant room (six weeks to 18 months). The library as approved space for school age child care (up to 20 children). The center director states the library is available to the program and only the program during the center's hours of operation when needed for school age children. The center director states that the school age children will eat in the cafeteria. All program rooms provide ample space for activities. The infant and toddler rooms are bright with large windows. The preschool room includes three adjacent restroom areas (one toilet and one hand washing sink each), one diaper station within the program room, and one hand washing sink within the program room. The toddler room includes one diapering station and two hand washing sinks within the program room. Children from the toddler room have to travel next door to the preschool room to use the restroom area. The infant room includes two diapering stations and two hand washing sinks within the program room.

The center is able to use the school gymnasium for indoor large motor activities if/when it is available.

The center does not participate in the CACFP. The center serves breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. Breakfast and lunch are prepared in the school cafeteria IDPH licensed kitchen by school kitchen staff on school days. For other days the center uses a staff person who functions primarily as a cook staff for the center but is also employed with the school in the kitchen area during the school year. The center purchases this service from the school. This is by contract arrangement between the center and the school. The center purchases and prepares their snacks.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program rooms continue to provide ample space. Two of the rooms are bright with windows. The center is providing a needed service to the community. The staff were observed to be engaged with the children in program activities. The center director states the center has plans to install pour in place surfacing for the entire outdoor play area in the immediate future. Staff and child files, other required licensing documentation, and the center's written policies are generally well 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. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. 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. Staff observed setting food and food service items on the counter space directly next to the hand washing sink and using that sink for hand washing activities during the set up of lunch.
2. Cots stacked next to hand washing sink and children's bedding items piled on top of a drawer stack next to the hand washing sink in the toddler room. Items shall not be stored near a hand washing sink. Children's bedding items shall be maintained sanitary.
3. Flooring in the toddler room where the tables are located is visibly dirty with food on the floor. More attention to cleaning up especially after food service is needed.

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.
1. Current activity plan not posted or available for the toddler room (activity plan dated 4/14/25).

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.
1. Ensure all menu items are CACFP credible. Veggie straws are not credible. Concerns with CACFP requirements have been cited previously.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center was reminded of allowable age combinations now that their Exception To Policy has expired. Two year old children may not be combined with four year old children, and three year old children may not be combined with school age children unless under the very specific rule 109.8(2)h for the very beginning and/or end of the day with only the number of children and staff present at the center as defined by the rule. The center will need to ensure compliance.

1. Update license posting with the current license.
2. Replace toilet seat that is visibly worn through as it can no longer be properly cleaned and disinfected.
3. Improve crib spacing. This was reviewed with the center director and staff in the room (at least three feet of space around a crib that has a child in it).
4. Remove play mats in the nursery as they are cracked and peeling and can no longer be properly cleaned and sanitized.
5. Ensure all food including breast milk are labeled with the child's name and date.
6. Cabinet fronts are visibly dirty and need to be cleaned in the preschool room.
7. Ensure all spray bottles throughout the center are properly labeled with their contents, and if bleach/water solution include the mix ratio and "change daily".

The center will continue with a full license. The center is directed to correct the items cited and the items noted above in this section of the report and to submit a written summary to the licensing consultant as to how and when those corrections are/will be completed. The written summary shall be submitted within 30 days of receipt of this evaluation. The center director shall follow up with the licensing consultant when all of the areas of concern for the outdoor play areas have been resolved. Thank you.

*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.