Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Knights Learning Center

Provider No.: 50552

Address: 611 8th ST, Lowden, IA, 52255

County: Cedar

Director's Name: Maria Porter

On-Site Supervisor: Glenda Leeper

Phone Number: 5639417790

E-Mail: mporter@north-cedarstu.org

HHS Visit Date: 12/05/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2024 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/12/2023

Comments: Does Comply.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	16	12	31	25	84
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Little Knights Learning Center operates the following two DHHS licensed childcare programs: Little Knights Learning Center and Little Knights Learning Center - Mechanicsville. Specifically, this DHHS license pertains to Little Knights Learning Center located inside the North Cedar Lowden Elementary Center which is part of the North Cedar Community School District. According to previous license reports, this center is nonprofit and overseen by a board of directors.

Multi-site director is Maria Porter. Maria started in 9/2018. Ms. Porter has a Para Educator Degree, has a plethora of experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training. The onsite supervisor is Glenda Leeper. Glenda started in 2004. Ms. Leeper has much experience working with children and continues to participate in annual professional development.

On 12/5/2025, program space was observed. Primary programming continues to occur in multiple age-defined classrooms. The building has sufficient restrooms and hand washing sinks to accommodate capacity. Foods for the program are made in the on-site school kitchen which is inspected by the local health department. There is also an outdoor play area. During the week of this monitoring visit, the areas of study included "Yummy Foods to Eat". Evidence of previous days' curriculum was celebrated throughout the building in the form of much child artwork! Curriculum on the day of the monitoring visit allowed for a variety of play experiences that piqued child interest as well as encouraged social emotional growth, innovation, and child choice. On 12/5/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included infant cares, carrying out curriculum, indoor large gross motor play, food rituals, nap time preparation, and routine transitions. Activities were observed to encourage child choice as well as elicit positive responses and interactions. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying their day.

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2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

-The center utilizes Bright Wheel for open parent communication.
-The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
The center has done a great job of maintaining staff: Glenda has been with the center since 2004. JoLynn started in 2016. Maria started in 2018. Nancy started in 2020. Andrea and Rian started in 2021.
-Staff and child files were in full compliance.
-There are cameras in every classroom.

The mission of Little Knights Learning Center is consistent with that of the entire North Cedar Community School District and "...is to ensure a safe and caring environment for each student, providing the essential knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes to create lifelong learners who are responsible, contributing, and productive citizens in a changing and increasingly diverse world..."

Little Knights Learning Center has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about their program: https://www.north-cedar.org/Little-Knights-Learning-Centers/.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

None noted.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The jack-and-jill style child restroom shared with school-age and preschool children has two open toilets with a stall partition between the toilets but no doors. Given the ages of children using this restroom, privacy in the form of doors or curtains shall be installed. Licensing also strongly recommends consideration for a curtain or doors in the jack-and-jill style restroom located in the toddler rooms as well.

If fire marshal allows and rather than using mobile furnishings, licensing supports the installation and use of a retractable baby gate on days of inclement weather when the hallway is used for some large gross motor activities.

Since the school district has a therapy room with therapy dog sometimes located in the same corridor as the childcare and the childcare children sometimes have an opportunity to visit with therapy dog, please retain the therapy dog's vaccination records with the program's DHHS license paperwork.

Please also continue to ensure:
- The oversized plastic cube chairs are not stacked to help prevent any topple hazards.
- Contents of lower cabinets remain child friendly or all lower cabinets be child proofed.
- Toilet plungers are stored off the floor in nonporous containers such as a plastic bucket.
- Childcare kitchenette freezer is getting tightly closed to help prevent moisture related issues.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 12/06/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

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Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.