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

Name of Center: The Learning Journey **Enrollment:** 72 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 7224

Street: 15111 214th ST **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51503 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 15111 214th ST, Council Bluffs, IA, 51503

Director's Name: Lisa Wilcox/Assistant director Jordan Hiffernan **Phone Number:** 712-256-3978

On-Site Supervisor(s): Mindy Roesler **E-Mail:** lhiffernan@aol.com, Jordan.wooten@hotmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-02-2024

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **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: 06-01-2023

Comments :

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	15	17	30	11	73
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 07-09-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to The Learning Journey on 7-2-2024. The Learning Journey is located adjacent to Lisa Wilcox's parents' home on private property. The center was a very large garage that was renovated, the center opened in July 2008. Lisa Wilcox is the director, and Jordan Hiffernan is the Assistant director. Mindy Roesler is the on-site supervisor. Mindy or Candace are in charge when Jordan is gone.
Lisa has her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Jordan has a Bachelor's Degree in Business. Child care services are offered to infants to school age children 7:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. There are 76 children enrolled in the program. I met with Jordan during my visit.

Observation of rooms:
The program rooms were in ratio, there are only a few school age children enrolled at this time. The children were having making a craft and fun playing. There is a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment in each room. Each room had lesson plans/activities. Plastic bags were accessible to children - these are a health and safety hazard , please move the plastic bags. Please remove the boppy pillow from the infant room, they aren't recommended in child care, they are intended for nursing mothers. The staff were nurturing and attentive to the needs of the children.
The center uses the Tadpole app to communicate with parents and infant daily sheets. The center has purchased new toys.

Nutrition:
Meals are prepared on site, menus are posted and are on a four week rotation. The kitchen was clean, proper storage was observed and there are thermometers in the refrigerator/freezers. The center is on the federal food program.

Health and safety:
The center follows the medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication.
Monthly fire/tornado drills are practiced and documented.
Three radon tests were completed in June 2023 and all test results were under a 4.0 pCi/L. Refer to your handbook for information on radon and the frequency of testing as this has changed.
The center follows the water testing protocols that are required, they test the water daily and someone comes in once a week to test the water.
The building is all electric.
Please review mixing instructions for sanitizing and disinfecting, bleach/water is used but wasn't being mixed properly according to the appropriate ounces - bottles were different sizes and aren't being mixed to the correct level on the bottles. Please refer to mixing instructions on your specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting. if the directions aren't on the bottle refer to the website on the bottle. Use the three step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. I discussed a couple other products with Jordan that are used for sanitizing and disinfecting and you are encouraged to discuss other options with your child care nurse consultant. Jordan said the nurse consultant is scheduled to visit the center soon.

Playground:
The center has a very nice playground with a climbing structure. Monthly playground safety inspections are documented.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Jordan maintains daily contact with the staff and has staff meetings on an almost monthly basis.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Lisa and Jordan are very enthusiastic and proud of their program. They provide quality child care services and are an excellent resource to the community.
Lisa maintains frequent contact with Jordan.
Jordan is always very friendly, organized and helpful during my visits.
The center has special programming and visitors that come to the center for presentations and interactive hands on learning.
The center uses the Tadpole child care app for communicating with parents - daily sheets, etc.
The center transitioned children and staff to this site from the Learning Journey II site that closed.

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. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. 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.
Please review mixing instructions for sanitizing and disinfecting, bleach/water is used but wasn't being mixed properly according to the appropriate ounces - bottles were different sizes and aren't being mixed to the correct level on the bottles.
Please refer to mixing instructions on your specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting. if the directions aren't on the bottle refer to the website on the bottle. Use the three step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. I discussed a couple other products with Jordan that are used for sanitizing and disinfecting and you are encouraged to discuss other options with your child care nurse consultant. Jordan said the nurse consultant is scheduled to visit the center soon.
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Please remove the boppy pillow from the infant room, they aren't recommended in child care, they are intended for nursing mothers.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 7-1-2024 to 7-1-2026.

*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.