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

Name of Center: Little Explorers Daycare **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52026

Street: 503 W Olive ST **City:** Graettinger Iowa **Zip** 51342 **County:** Palo Alto

Mailing Address: PO Box 322, Graettinger, IA, 51342

Director's Name: Tammy Peyton **Phone Number:** 712-859-3773

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** jpf5374@rvtc.net

Date(s) of Visit: 03-14-2023, 02-07-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-28-2022

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

Date Inspected: 12-09-2022

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	22	22	44	63	151
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-09-2022 to 12-09-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 03-30-2023

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 Little Explorers Daycare on 02-07-23, and again on 03-14-23. This is the initial licensing for the program which was given permission to open in December 2022. Tammy Peyton is the center director and is well qualified for the position with a Diploma in Child Daycare Management, and extensive experience in early childhood care in both registered home and licensed daycare settings. The program is located in the Immaculate Conception and operated as a non-profit program overseen by a board from the Graettinger Economic Development Council. The center offers full range child care for infants through school age children. There are currently 25 children enrolled in the center served by 6 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visits.

The program makes use of four classrooms determined by age, (infant, 2-3, 3-4, 5+) and also has a large cafeteria gathering hall that has space which can be used for large motor skill activities. Each classrooms has large banks of windows along the exterior walls that provide ample natural light, a view of the outdoors, ventilation, and secondary egress for the 3-4, and 5+ age classrooms. The infant, and 2-3 year old classrooms have secondary exits providing direct access to the outdoors. Exits were observed to be clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are located off the main corridor and children escorted to the restrooms as needed. The infant and 2-3 year old classrooms have diapering stations with the required procedures postings present. Each classroom has a sink present to facilitate handwashing. Each classroom was observed to be clean with no concerns noted due to maintenance. Each classroom has an open floor plan that is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture and play structures which are arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

The activity centers in each classroom varies according the developmental levels of the children with increasing options available to older age groups. Activity center include books, art/crafts, and large manipulatives in all classrooms with older age groups adding dramatic play, small manipulatives, sensory, math/science, and group learning. Each activity center was well stocked with a variety of toys that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Each classroom, with the exception of the infant room, had a copy of the daily schedule and planned curriculum posted. While it is understood that much of the care provided in infant rooms is self-directed and needs based for each child the center should still have a posted schedule to identify those common routines such as snack/meal times and diapering checks/changes as well as plans for activities such as planned art/crafts, playing music, or reading a book. In addition having a general learning focus theme whether on a color, holiday, texture, or shape can also help the staff with planning specific activities or considering materials to have in the classroom to provide the children with new experiences. For the older age classrooms each used the same general learning focus of Changing Weather, and Silly Fun with specific curriculum activities that were planned to support the developmental levels of the children. Good interactions were observed with regard to all staff being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The teachers in each classroom were also presenting the planned curriculums and helping children develop skills. This ranged from the infant room where the teachers assisted the children with motor skill activities such as having older infants holding markers and doing scribble drawings, and putting items in to the hands of younger infants to stimulate grasping reflexes. In older classrooms the activities were more formal with the preschool age rooms engaging in a music and movement activity with giving the children instruments to play along with songs. The center is still growing and class sizes are smaller at this time but ratio was maintained in each classroom as required. One issue that was observed during the follow-up visit was that the

center had set up play activities in the main hallway for large motor skill play due to the weather not being conducive to outdoor play. Use of corridors for programming areas is prohibited, and the center should make use of the approved space in the cafeteria/gathering hall area of the building.

Good health and safety practices were generally observed during the visit. I was able to observe diaper changes and staff did follow the established procedures. During the initial visit it was noted that the center did not have a separate container for soiled diapers from other trash but had obtained a second trash can by the time of the follow-up visit. Another correction that had been made between the time of the two visits was that staff were storing personal items such as purses and diaper bags in areas where they would not be accessible to children given that items that can pose a risk to children such as medications are frequently present. Other items that could pose a risk to children such as chemical cleaners, over the counter medications, and toys with small parts were also stored where they would not be readily accessible to children but which could be accessed as needed and their use supervised. Good cleaning practices are in place with the staff cleaning and disinfecting surfaces as needed, waiting for children to be out of the immediate area when using chemical cleaners, and following the label directions regarding use and storage. There were no children currently taking any prescription medications on the day of my visit but the center does have policies in place should it become necessary in the future. Over the counter medications were labeled with the names of the individual to whom it belonged. First aid kits are maintained in each classroom and contain a supply of materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Good safe sleep practices were observed during the time of my visit.

The program does have access to the church kitchen facilities and meals are prepared on-site. A copy of the planned menu was posted and the prepared meal of turkey & cheese sandwiches, mixed fruit, carrot sticks, milk, potato chips, and an option for pasta salad was consistent with the planned menu. Good food storage, handling, and preparation practices were observed. All refrigeration units had thermometers present. Staff washed their hands and work food service gloves when handling and serving food. Measured scoops were used to portion the meals to ensure each child received a full serving. Supervision was provided at the tables when children were eating. Food items were properly stored in air tight sealable food grade containers after the original packaging seal had been broken.

The center does not have a traditional outdoor playground but is in the process of planning and fund raising to install a playground. The center does have the cafeteria area that can be used for indoor large motor play. The center also blocks off part of the parking lot to provide the children with an open paved area where the children can use riding toys, sidewalk chalk, balls, and other toys. The center also makes use of community based options such as going for walks, local parks, the public library, and public pool.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for no smoking, consultant contact, mandatory child abuse reporting, and the permission to open letter were posted in an area readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Evacuation notices that include both diagram and written instructions were posted in all classrooms but were not present by each exit as required. In reviewing staff and child files the center does maintain a self-audit to track what information is present and what is needed. Random files were selected for review and compared to the self-audit which was found to be accurate. Based on the self-audit and reviewed files for the children the center does need to obtain a physical for 5 children, and immunizations for 4 children. It was also noted that infant daily sheets have been updated provide a prompt for staff to document daily activities and disposition for children. In reviewing staff files 2 needed a current physical, 1 had not completed all training required within the first 90 days, and 1 had not had their fingerprint background check submitted prior to hire as required. The center did have documentation that monthly fire and tornado drills were being conducted. It was reviewed that during the coming year the center will need to conduct radon testing, and maintain documentation of fuel burning appliance inspections which should be completed prior to the start of the heating season in the fall. The center handbooks have been previously reviewed and the center was still working to develop the required emergency response plans. Information regarding the required policies and minimum content has been provided. The center is working with Child Care Resource & Referral, and the county Emergency Management Services coordinator to develop the needed policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This is a new program that was developed in response to a community identified need and which received strong support from the community. The program has seen good initial enrollment and growth.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
-- Number not in compliance: 1 The FBI FIngerprint Check had not been submitted prior to hire as required for 1

employee.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
-- Number not in compliance: 2

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children.Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards.If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.
-- All required emergency plans were present. The center is working to finalize emergency response plans and is working with CCR&R and the county EMS coordinator to develop appropriate policies.

109.11(1): 35 square feet of usable floor space per child.Rooms with cribs have 40 square feet of space per child. Kitchens, bathrooms, halls, lobby areas, storage areas and other areas of the center not designed as activity space for children shall not be used as regular program space or counted as useable floor space.
-- The center had set up cones, and play activities in the main corridor of the building for large motor skill activities due to inclimate weather. Use of corridors for programming activities is not allowed. The center does have a cafeteria/gathering hall that has been previously inspected and approved for use as an indoor large motor skill activity space.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.