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

Name of Center: Little Endeavor Grimes **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50996

Street: 441 SE Gateway Dr **City:** Grimes Iowa **Zip** 50111 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 441 SE Gateway Dr, Grimes, IA, 50111

Director's Name: McKenna Mattheis **Phone Number:** 515-986-0920

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** mckenna@littleendeavors.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-29-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-07-2024

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

Date Inspected: 06-03-2024

Comments : Johnston-Grimes Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations. Johnston - Grimes typically do inspections every other year.

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	21	17	78	52	168
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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-04-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 5/29/24. The director was present throughout the visit. The GM arrived shortly after the visit started.

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 Endeavors Grimes (formerly known as First Steps Child Care Center Grimes) was purchased by Eric Kohlsdorf and Todd Figley in 1/2020. Eric and Todd also own the Little Endeavors programs in Waukee, IA and Ankeny, IA. The General Manager of all three programs is Ashley Kunz. The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age. One side of the building has enclosed classrooms and then one open area for four/five year old children. On the other side, the room is all open and used by school-age children. The center uses their own learning curriculum that is based off of several other curriculums.

The director at this center, officially as of 11/2022 is McKenna Mattheis. McKenna was previously the on-site supervisor. McKenna has a lot of experience working in child care and this center. McKenna has also taken a number of professional development training courses.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs, having tummy time, washing their hands, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms. Children gave specific answers as to where they go for monthly fire and tornado drills. Staff were overall attentive to children's needs and engaged in all child activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owners of this program also own Little Endeavors in Waukee and Little Endeavors in Ankeny. There is continuity.

The director has past experience working in child care, including as an on-site supervisor. The director is organized.

The center was clean and nicely decorated.

Major renovation has taken place within the past year on the interior of the building and making enclosed classrooms.

Roughly quarterly, all-staff meetings are held.

The center uses the Pro-Care online app.

The center has a secure entrance.

Good staff - child interactions and conversations were observed and overheard during the visit in all classrooms.

Employees are eligible for benefits (insurance, vacation, sick leave, health insurance, etc.).

The center has a break room for staff.

There is a lot of storage space.

The center has a full-time cook (currently looking for a new one)

The site is a pick up and drop off location for school-age children.

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 newer staff has not yet been fingerprinted. This should have been done prior to hire. It was noted the SING checks cleared for this person.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2 children were missing current physicals in their files.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
At one point during the visit, there was a four/five year old child not being supervised at the restrooms/sink area.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. 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.
There were cleaners being stored in the four/five year old classroom that were potentially accessible to children.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every five years so long as radon levels in classrooms are below 4.0. Radon testing was last conducted 4/17/20 - 4/19/20 and all levels were below 4.0. 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 last annual furnace inspection on file was from 4/15/24.

For field trips, the center takes a company van. Children five and older (so long as going into Kindergarten) are eligible for off site field trips. The center will also bring in different agencies for presentations to children.

IQ4K and I - Power were discussed at the visit. Staff will need to upload their professional development training in I - Power. The center has looked into IQ4K and is interested in starting this process in the near future.

It is again recommended that if there is enough room, dividers be put up between toilets for the three, four, and five year old children restrooms.

It is recommended a cover be used for cot storage as discussed at the visit.

Based on the limited options for the diaper changing tables, it is recommended a mirror be installed on the wall in the two year old classroom by the diaper changing tables so that staff can see behind them and what children are doing when they

are changing diapers.

There were two bolts that need to be recapped under the large climbing structure.

A new floor plan should be sent to this consultant now that the interior renovation project has been completed.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.