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

Name of Center: Little Bison Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 77 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22450

Street: 404 2nd St NW **City:** Buffalo Center Iowa **Zip** 50424 **County:** Winnebago

Mailing Address: PO Box 410, Buffalo Center, IA, 50424

Director's Name: Jennifer Gray **Phone Number:** 641-562-2950

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** jennifer.gray@northiowa.org

Date(s) of Visit: 04-21-2023

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:** 04-07-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-16-2021

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	18	16	19	23	76
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2023 to 06-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 04-28-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to Little Bison Daycare on 04-21-23 where I met with the center director, Jennifer Gray. Jennifer is well qualified for the position with extensive experience and on-going training in early childhood care and education. The program is located in an annex of the Buffalo Center elementary school While the program does have a strong collaborative relationship with the school it is operated independently from the school under a separate board of directors. The center provides daycare services to infants through school age children. There are currently 77 children enrolled in the program served by 12 teachers. All aspects of the program subject to DHS Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building remain the same as in the prior report with the center making use of 5 classrooms which are established according to age groups. The program is currently operating two infant rooms with one for children under 12 months of age, and one for children 12-24 months of age. The 2-3, 4-5, and school age children occupy the other 3 classrooms. Each classroom has restroom facilities located directly off the programming space so that children do not need to leave the room. All restroom facilities were observed to be in good repair, and clean. Changing stations are also present in the infant and two year old classrooms. Each room has additional sinks in the classroom with one for hand washing, and one for food preparation. Each classroom has large windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The 2-3 year old classroom has a secondary interior exit from the room, and the other classrooms would make use of window exits.

The center was also making use of a large corridor space that was identified as being a defunct connecting corridor to the school as an indoor large motor skill area. The space was a connecting corridor to the school building with a direct exit on one end, access to the school on the other, and connected to the daycare main hallway at the midpoint of the corridor. The space was estimated to be 15 x 100 feet and had no other rooms or connecting corridors accessible from the space. It was noted that both ends had lighted exit signs and that items were stored along the walls, and chairs arranged at the mid point to help define an area of use.. Given the lighted emergency exit signage there is question as to whether this is a designated emergency exit for the school and/or daycare program. Notice was provided to the Fire Marshal to review. If the space is a designated emergency corridor it should not be closed off, and should not be used for programming space. If the fire marshal does not identify it as an emergency exit corridor then it could be considered for inclusion as a large motor skill space.

Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furniture, shelving, and play structures. The available centers and toys increase with each age group as appropriate to their developmental level. All rooms include options such as large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading. The older classrooms begin to add options of dramatic play, puzzles/table games, group learning, music, science, and math. The activity centers are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas. It was noted that teacher work areas had been created through the placement of a desk in the classrooms serving the preschool and school age children. The infant rooms have previously used mobile fence structures to create separation of the rooms but identified they have discontinued using them at this time. Each classroom was observed to be clean with no concerns noted due to maintenance.

Each room had a good variety of toys and materials present that were generally in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Some toys were present that were marked as having been produced for food vendors as promotional items and these are prohibited and need to be removed. Copies of the daily schedule and planned curriculum were not posted in all classrooms as required. It was obvious that the center does follow a general schedule with lunch being served, and rooms being arranged for nap time, and that activities are planned such as in the preschool room where art and craft materials had been prepared for later in the day. Despite this the center is still required to post written plans and schedules and this has been reviewed with the center in the past. When preparing the daily schedule each classroom shall have a written plan that shows the general time that consistent activities such as center play, outdoor play, meals/snacks, nap/quiet time, etc. occur. When preparing the curriculum plan each classroom shall have a written plan that identifies a plan of activities that help children build cognitive, motor, language, and social skills. Identifying either a general learning focus theme, or specific learning concepts can help to provide a framework for specific activities. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age. Good interactions were observed during the visit with all teachers being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. The center generally uses a positive behavior support approach to addressing behavioral concerns.

Good health and safety practices were observed on the day of my visit. When observing diaper changes staff did follow posted procedures although when cleaning the changing station staff were immediately wiping the disinfectant product dry. It was reviewed that staff do need to follow the label directions regarding allowing the product to dwell on the surface to ensure it is effective. Over the counter medications were generally properly labeled and stored but some were labeled either on the packaging, or just in a basket labeled with a child's name rather than directly on the container. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other things that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children. Good safe sleep practices were observed on the day of my visit. Good handwashing practices were observed with staff reminding children to wash their hands and as needed and ensuring that they did so in an effective manner.

The center makes use both of the school cafeteria and their own kitchen to prepare meals where the school will prepare meals a couple days a week and a center cook will prepare meals on the other days. Good storage practices were observed in the daycare kitchen area on the day of my visit. Lunch was served during the time of my visit and was consistent with the planned menu of chicken patty sandwich, cooked carrots, canned peaches, and milk. The staff were observed to use food service gloves, and measured scoops when preparing plates for the children. Children eat in the classrooms and the teachers did provide supervision at the tables.

The center has access to both a toddler playground, and the larger playground space used by the school age children. The toddler playground did have a small climbing structure, and has a riding track with a central area that had wood chips and sand where children could play. The woodchips and sand has been displaced and created a tripping hazard where it is below the edge of the riding track. It is understood that the school is responsible for maintaining the equipment in the school age playground space and the center should inspect and notify the school of any concerns, and limit the children from using items needing maintenance until it is repaired. Several large mature trees provide shade around the perimeter of the school age area.

All required notices were posted at the main entrance where they were readily visible to all parents and visitors. A random sample of 7 child files were selected for review and compared to the self audit completed by the center which was found to be accurate. The self-audit and review identified 11 as needing an updated physical. In reviewing staff files a random sample 3 files were selected and reviewed and again the self-audit completed by the center was found to be accurate. The self-audit and review identified 2 needed a current physical, 4 needed updated 1st Aid/CPR training, and 5 needed to complete on-going professional development training required annually after the first year of employment. All inspection logs and certificates were found to be current and available. The center was in the process of conducting a Tornado Drill when I arrived and good procedures were followed. One issue was noted with regard to infants participating in the drill where 5 children were in an evacuation crib. It was reviewed that the center would need to verify the manufacturer guidelines regarding evacuation cribs as these have load limits determined by either the number of children, or the combined weight present in the crib. Typically the load limit when considering the number of children is capped at 4 but some are capable of accepting more.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is participating in the Quality Rating Scales program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and currently rated a 2 STAR program out of 5 STAR scale.

Jennifer stated that center has received a grant for new playground surfacing in the toddler playground area and there are plans to make renovations later this spring/summer.

The center has been very stable with regard to children enrollment and staffing.

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

109.7(2): Center directors and all staff have the required contact hours of training.
-- Number not in compliance: 6

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

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

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: 11

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.
-- A copy of the planned schedule and curriculum was not posted in each classroom as required. NOTE: 2ND YEAR CITED.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Toys manufactured as promotional items for food vendors are prohibited and need to be removed. Additional fall surfacing is needed in the toddler playground area to provide a smooth transition from the riding track and the area of fall surfacing, or modification is required to clearly denote the transition point and change in elevation to reduce the risk of a tripping hazard.

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.

A referral will be made to the Child Care Resource & Referral office to provide assistance to the center in developing curriculum plans for each classroom.

*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.