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

Name of Center: Little Knights Learning Center **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50237

Street: 1102 Clark Street **City:** Dysart Iowa **Zip** 52224 **County:** Tama

Mailing Address: PO BOX 672, Dysart, IA, 52224

Director's Name: Megan Bessman **Phone Number:** 319-476-2226

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hannah Hix **E-Mail:** littleknightslearningcenter@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-20-2022

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:** 11-09-2022

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

Date Inspected: 07-26-2021

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

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	27	18	20	20	85
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 12-22-2022

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A full licensing visit was conducted on 12/20/22. The On-Site Supervisor was present for the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The playground had snow cover.

Little Knights Learning Center was given Permission to Open on 8/14/18. In July of 2021, the center moved into their new construction building that is located on a lot on the school grounds, but is a free standing building and not connected to the school. The new building has 5 enclosed classrooms, two for infants and toddlers; one with a 15 capacity and one with a 12 capacity. There is a two year old classroom with a capacity for 18, a school age classroom with a capacity for 20 and a preschool classroom with a capacity for 20. This changes the total capacity for the center from 69 to 85. The fire marshal completed the passing fire marshal inspection on 7/26/21 and the center took occupancy on 7/27/21. The center has a kitchen and prepares their own meals now and snacks. The center has a large outdoor space that is now completed with fencing, surfacing and a natural playground theme.

The hours of operation are from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm.

The center is using their own curriculum, each classroom has their own lesson plans based on themes.

Megan Bessman is the Director, starting in this position in June of 2020. Megan has several years experience in providing childcare and was the previous on-site supervisor at the center. The current on-site supervisor is Hannah Hix. Hannah has some college education and experience in daycare. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

Almost three years have passed since the pandemic began. The center continues to follow all DHS guidelines pertaining to Covid-19.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The new building was designed specifically for childcare and the rooms are set up well with age appropriate furnishings and equipment. Families, staff and children are excited to be in the new building. The playground was recently completed in September of 2022 and is separated into three sections, with natural landscape and equipment. The children love the new playground.

The center provides a needed and beneficial service to families in the community. Enrollment has increased since the center opened and is steady.

The center receives strong support from the Board of Directors.

The center has a secure entrance.

The staff are nurturing and invested in providing quality care to the children.

The staff work well together. The staff communicate well with the families. Four of the staff who started with the center when the center opened are still working at the center.

The center is using the Pro Care app for updates to families and real time communication. Each room has a tablet.

The staff have shown a dedication to the center, especially during the pandemic. The staff have been resilient and have worked hard and extra hours during the pandemic.

The administrative team work well together. They also take time to show staff they are appreciated by communicating this to them, trying to accommodate their hours and needs and providing them with treats and lunches. They do staff gifts every year at their year employment. They have door decorating contests. A suggestion box for staff was installed.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control. Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
One staff file reviewed did not have CPR/First aid training completed within the first three months of hire; this was completed 6 months after hire.

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
One staff file reviewed did not have the SING background check completed prior to the staff being in ratio; the staff was hired in May and the SING check was completed in November; same with the national criminal history check.

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: 1
One staff file reviewed did not have the repeat physical after three years; the repeat physical was completed five months past the three year mark.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center's menus reflect the CACFP guidelines are being followed.

Radon testing is required every two years. The center last completed radon testing in January of 2022 and all classrooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace was inspected in September of 2022.

Discussion took place regarding the staff files and background checks. The waivers to complete the background checks were signed at the time of employment, however the actual checks were not completed until 6 months after hire. The director and on-site supervisor will determine who is responsible for each task for staff and child files so there is not a situation of one thinking the other one completed the task.

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.