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

**Name of Center:** Natural Wonders Learning Center **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50179

**Street:** 1512 Westwood DR **City:** Jefferson Iowa **Zip** 50129 **County:** Greene

**Mailing Address:** 1512 Westwood DR, Jefferson, IA, 50129

**Director's Name:** Nicole Timmons **Phone Number:** 515-386-2317

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Brittanie Siruta **E-Mail:** naturalwonders4kids@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 11-14-2024

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 10-09-2024

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

**Date Inspected:** 02-11-2024

**Comments :** State Fire Marshal 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:** 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 | 16 | 12 | 26 | 16 | 70 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 12-01-2024 to 12-01-2026 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 11-15-2024

**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 11/14/24. The owner/director was present throughout the visit.

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.

Natural Wonders Learning Center is a center in Jefferson, IA that was given permission to open on 8/20/18. The center is owned by Nicole Timmons. Nicole is also the director of the center. Nicole has a BA degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. Nicole has over 10 years of experience working in child care in both a school and a child care setting. The on-site supervisor as of 5/2024 is Brittanie Siruta. Brittanie has worked at this program for several years and has taken a number of professional development training to meet requirements for on-site supervisor.

The center serves children six weeks in age to 12 years in age using the Creative Learning Curriculum. The center is open year-round. There are a total of five classrooms. The infant classroom has a capacity of eight children. The toddler classroom has a capacity of eight children. The two year old classroom has a capacity of 12 children. The three/four year old classroom has a capacity of 26 children. The five/school-age classroom has a capacity of 16 children.

During the visit, all children with the exception of the infant classroom were napping on cots. Staff were walking around and checking on children napping. In the infant classroom, one child was observed having a diaper changed. Other children were on the floor and staff were sitting on the floor with the children and interacting with them.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment remains steady.

The center was nicely decorated and clean.

The center uses Bright Wheel which is an electronic application for daily sheets and other licensing functions.

The center employs a full-time cook.

The director has lots of experience working in the child care/school setting.

The center utilizes the Family Resource Center for assistance when needed.

Quarterly all-staff meetings are held.

The owner stated she felt like she has a good staff working for her. Staff work well together and have good communication

with each other and support each other.

The center has security cameras.

Good child-staff interactions were observed.

Playground mats have been installed underneath the swings on the playground which will help preserve playground surfacing.

**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: 2 staff members' SING checks could not be located initially during the visit. SING checks were redone at the visit and both staff cleared all protocols.

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.
On the playground, more mulch is needed under one slide and/or more dirt is needed to enclose the slide like it initially was and was intended. If this can't be accomplished, the center should consider removing this slide.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It was previously noted that the carbon monoxide detector is built into the building systems.

The center has a bus that is used for field trips. The bus has a first-aid kit and staff take children's emergency contacts with them for all field trips. The bus was observed at this year's visit.

Radon testing was last tested 12/24/21 - 12/28/21. Radon levels came back below the 4.0 cutoff. 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. It was noted at last year's visit that the center had been working with a radon mitigation specialist.

The annual furnace inspection was completed on 11/5/24.

IQ4K and I-Power were again discussed at the visit. The center has recently started the IQ4K process. Staff should continue to upload training certificates into their I-Power profiles and also keep hard copies in individual files.

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.