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

Name of Center: Little Endeavor Grimes **Enrollment:** 63 **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:** ashley@littleendeavors.com
mckenna@littleendeavors.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-06-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-23-2022

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

Date Inspected: 06-05-2020

Comments : Johnston-Grimes Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations which means the center is due again now for another inspection. 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	16	12	49	50	127
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2022 to 07-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-06-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 6/6/23. The new 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. The most recent Covid updates were also reviewed.

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. There are two large open areas. In one of these large areas, classrooms are set up and divided by half walls. 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 playing outside on the playground, playing at the different learning stations set up in classrooms, being bottle fed, napping in cribs, and washing their hands. Children discussed having sunscreen applied before they go outside to play and also appropriate times when they wash their hands while at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

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

The center was clean and nicely decorated. Within the past year, the parking lot has been redone as well as several other exterior projects.

Every other month 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.

The center participates in QRS (now known as IQ4K) which is a voluntary program focused on best practice.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
Three children files need to be updated.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one expired epipen in the center. Once a new epipen is provided, the parent will also have to complete a new Food Allergy Action Plan as well.

109.10(15)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Fire and tornado drills from February - May 2023 were not documented.

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.
1. The bolts along the playground fence will need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are exposed. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.
2. There was a cord to a CD player that needs to be more securely secured to the wall so it is not freely dangling.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
April and May 2023 records were not documented.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
The last annual furnace/air conditioning inspection on file was from 11/29/21 so this is past due.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Chocolate Rice Chex Cereal is not considered a credible food item per CACFP.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is new 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. If levels in 2025 are above 4.0, the center will have to retest and then move back to testing every two years.

The last annual furnace inspection on file was from 11/29/21 so it is past due.

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.

The center will need to contact the Johnston - Grimes Fire Department so that the Fire Marshal can do another inspection as the center is again due now for this inspection.

The staff tracking sheet and the child tracking sheet was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

The CACFP smart phone app was presented at the visit.

The director will need to go through the center's Emergency Preparedness Kit and replace all expired food. The director will also need to check with the center's local evacuation site to determine if this is still an option and makes sense to use.

IQ4K and I - Power were discussed at the visit.

It is 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 the center reduce the number of containers they have in the infant classroom as discussed at the visit.

There should be a separate monthly fire and tornado drill form for school-age children.

CCR&R is a resource for all centers. They can help with a number of questions, concerns, procedures, organization of forms, etc. With all new directors within the company, it is recommended CCR&R be utilized as needed.

*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.