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

**Name of Center:** Little Panther Daycare & Preschool **Enrollment:** 65 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6500

**Street:** 601 Panther Dr **City:** Panora Iowa **Zip** 50216 **County:** Guthrie

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 567, Panora, IA, 50216

**Director's Name:** Page Arganbright and Brooke Ramsey **Phone Number:** 641-755-3003

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Heidi Huitt, Taylor Gross, Lindsie Schacherer, Kinze Laabs, Zakira Lowe **E-Mail:** littlepanther@netins.net

**Date(s) of Visit:** 08-09-2023

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:** 07-07-2023

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

**Date Inspected:** 03-15-2023

**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:** 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 | 20 | 38 | 19 | 95 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 3

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-10-2023

**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 8/9/23. The director was present throughout the majority of 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 Panther Daycare and Preschool is a childcare program located in Panora, IA. The center serves children ages four weeks old to 12 years in age. School-age children use a classroom within the school which is located just up the hill and on the same property as the building were other children in the center are located. There are a total of six classrooms. The center uses a weekly, theme-based curriculum that incorporates several curriculums, including the Creative Learning Curriculum.

The center is overseen by a Board. Page Arganbright is the director of the center. Page was approved as the director on 8/8/17. Page has an AA degree and has past experience working in child care. Brooke Ramsey is the assistant director as of 7/31/18. Brooke has past experience working in child care. Heidi Huitt, Taylor Gross, Lindsie Schacherer, Kinzee Laabs, and Zakira Lowe are the on-site supervisors. All five individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed being bottle fed, having tummy time on the floor, napping in a crib, napping on cots, washing hands, eating lunch, and engaged in a large group activity being facilitated by staff. Good interactions and conversations were heard between children and staff.

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

There is a secure entrance into the center. There are also security cameras.

The center participates in QRS (now called IQ4K) which is a voluntary program based on best practice. The center has started the IQ4K process.

The center will provide a certain brand of formula to infants at no additional cost at parents' request.

At least quarterly staff meetings are held. The director also participates in quarterly meeting with other directors within the region.

The center participates in the food program -CACFP. The center employs a full-time cook.

A monthly newsletter is sent to parents via email.

Preschool is open to the public.

Enrollment remains steady.

Staff bios and pictures are posted within the center.

The center has a website and a Facebook page. They also use the online app, Pro-care.

There is a full basement area for extra storage and for staff and children to go for weather related events.

The director continues to feel that she had a good mix of tenured and new staff and they all work well together.

Within the past year, new playground surfacing, a new playground structure, fencing, and more security cameras have been installed.

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

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.
June 2023 fire drills were missed.

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. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.
1. It was too dark in the two year old classroom during nap time. A blind should at least be opened for more natural light so that children can be better observed.
2. As it pertains to the playground areas:
   a. There is a broken piece (jacks) where a blue pipe/pole is sticking out of the ground. This should be taped off as a current hazard.
   b. Two bolts on the large climber on the school-age playground need another nut on them so that no more than two threads are exposed.
   c. The black under tarp on the school-age playground is exposed in several areas creating a potential hazard.
   d. There is a head entrapment area on the younger playground where the fence meets the building.
   e. Six foot fall zones need to be met on the younger playground for ladders, slides, etc.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The center has all electric appliances. However, it is recommended that an annual HVAC inspection be performed.

Radon testing was last completed 9/2/22 - 9/6/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels 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.

The center transports children to field trips in their bus they purchased in 2022.

I - Power and IQ4K were again discussed at the visit.

It was noted that a couple of children whose files were reviewed are within their 30 day window of needing updated physicals.

Boppy pillows should only be used for assistance when feeding children.

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.