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

Name of Center: The Learning Grove Academy **Enrollment:** 118 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51478

Street: 1780 Lininger LN **City:** North Liberty Iowa **Zip** 52317 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address: 120 S LaSalle ST STE 1200, Chicago, IL, 60603

Director's Name: Mikaela Brandenburg **Phone Number:** 319-626-8555

On-Site Supervisor(s): Heather Dake **E-Mail:** mbrandenburg@learninggroveacademy.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-02-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-15-2023

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

Date Inspected: 12-07-2023

Comments : Does Comply..

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 X 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	62	32	84	90	268
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 02-02-2024

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

The center was on a provisional license from 7/6/23 to 2/2/24. The new director started in 9/28/23 and the new on-site supervisor started in 10/17/23. The center has corrected the citations. They have developed strong working relationships with Child Care Resource and Referral.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker arrived at THE LEARNING GROVE ACADEMY – 51478 for an annual visit on 2/2/2024. The center provides traditional child care. They currently have 118 children enrolled with a capacity of 268. The center is located inside of a commercial building. The center has 12 classrooms, a multipurpose room, staff development room, storage spaces, and office. The center is is owned by a corporation and operated by the director.

The director is Mikaela Brandenburg. The director has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and a Bachelor's Degree in Chinese Language Literature. The director started in 9/28/2023. The onsite supervisor is Heather Dake. The onsite supervisor is working on her Child Development Associate's. The onsite supervisor started in 10/17/2023.

All program space was observed on the date of my visit. Nutritional practices were checked. The center is not on the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The center provides breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. The kitchen was maintained in a clean/orderly fashion.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed. The center has medications stored appropriately. The center followed handwashing procedures for the staff and children.. The center's first aid kit was was fully stocked.. The center did practice fire, tornado and emergency drills as required. The center had radon testing completed as required.. The center completed their annual fuel burning appliance inspection and had a carbon monoxide detector..

The center's outdoor play area had rubber mulch for surfacing. Activities outside included: climbing structures, balls, blocks, cars, and dramatic play.

The center's curriculum is teacher created. The center does offer field trips. For school aged children only. They have gone to the following places: splash pad, Fossil Gorge, River Museum, Maquoketa Caves, etc.

The center's policies, licensing notebook, staff files and child files were reviewed. The center had all required postings.. The center communicates with parents by ProCare.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center uses ProCare for open parent communication.
-The center director and on-site supervisor have established strong working relationships with Child Care Resource and Referral and Grant Wood AEA.
-Staff files, child files and the licensing were in full compliance.
-Staff were overheard redirecting children and praising them as needed.
-The center has done an excellent job of purchasing age-appropriate materials including inclusive dolls.
-A center staff is using sign language and a couple of staff are bilingual.
-The center has done a great job of hiring male staff.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.
-There were choking hazards accessible in several classrooms. This included craft supplies, window clings, and magnets.
-The center's kitchen needs to be remodeled. Walls are buckling because of water damage, chemicals are accessible to the children, knives are accessible, a kitchen cabinet is broken and the dirty dish counter is falling off the wall.
-Even though the staff lockers are inaccessible to children This worker recommends that they are secured to prevent staff injuries.
-In the school aged room carpets are rolling in the corners.
-Diaper pads need to be removed. They are not sanitary.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

The following agencies are available to provide consultation, support, and educational opportunities:
CACFP: https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program
Child Care Resource and Referral: https://iowaccrr.org/staff/region_5/
Early Childhood Iowa: https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
First Children's Finance: https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/
Healthy Child Care Nurse Consultants: https://hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants
Iowa AEYC: http://www.iowaaeyc.org/
Iowa After School Alliance: https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/
Iowa State University: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/early-childhood
4c's of Johnson County: https://www.iowa4cs.com/

*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.