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

Name of Center: Newton Early Learning Academy **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49974

Street: 2713 N 4th AVE E **City:** Newton Iowa **Zip** 50208 **County:** Jasper

Mailing Address: PO Box 111, Reasoner, IA, 50232

Director's Name: Melissa Strand **Phone Number:** 641-787-2002

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** thenelafamily@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-05-2022

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

Date Inspected: 02-26-2021

Comments :

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	20	17	27	25	89
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 12-14-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Newton Early Learning Academy opened in November 2018. The center is located in a single standing building. The center has security cameras in classrooms and the entryway. The center serves children ages infancy through school age. The owners of the center are Paloma and Jeffrey Keith. Melissa Strand is the director.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Schedules and lesson plans are available in the classrooms.

Melissa was present and assisted with the visit. Paloma came to the center also. The infant class had one infant in attendance. One staff was working in the infant classroom. In the toddler classroom, there were three toddlers present. There was one staff working in this room. The 2's room had six children present. One staff was working in this room. The preschool room had twelve children in attendance. Two staff were working in this classroom. Children were observed in classrooms. Some children were observed having lunch. Some classrooms were observed preparing for rest time and while napping.

The center has a full kitchen. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Lunch served today was spaghetti with meatballs, peas, raspberries and milk. Menus are made on a monthly basis. A few meals being served don't meet CACFP requirements.

The center has a playground that has fencing. There is grass and concrete in the outdoor play area. The center has completed monthly playground checks. The center is also able to use the Head Start playground.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The current director worked at the daycare prior to being promoted to director.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
One staff and the owner didn't have current SING checks on file.

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.
A staff hired in July didn't have a federal record check completed. The owner didn't have a current federal record check on file.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
A few children's files were missing preferred dental information.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
One file hadn't gotten a current physical since February 2022.

109.10(7): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene. Staff shall wash hands: Upon arrival at the center.Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After diapering a child.
Staff didn't wash their hands after diapering a toddler.

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.
A toddler didn't have their hands washed after being diapered.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
An infant was sleeping in a floor swing. There were no cribs in the classroom ready for napping, all cribs had mattresses in upright positions.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.
Some meals being served didn't meet CACFP requirements.

109.9(2)g: Any child with allergies, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
A child's action/allergy plan was dated February 2022.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license at this time.

The center continues to have a lot of licensing violations. This was addressed with the director and owner. They stated all violations would be addressed/corrected. This worker sent required postings to the center. This worker contacted the center's CCR&R consultant. This worker encouraged the director and owner to contact the CCR&R consultant also. This worker recommended the owner and director visit other daycare centers of comparable size to talk with directors and view their centers.

Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

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