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

Name of Center: Little Husky Childcare Preschool **Enrollment:** 77 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19258

Street: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F **City:** Oelwein Iowa **Zip** 50662 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F, Oelwein, IA, 50662

Director's Name: Ashley Schwartz **Phone Number:** 319-283-2302

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Schwartz **E-Mail:** mvannote@oelwein.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 04-24-2023

Comments : Compliance on 05/25/23

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 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	43	27	49	50	169
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-01-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 07/18/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Little Husky Childcare and Preschool in Oelwein. I met with Marisa Van Note, the director. Ms. Van Note has an AAS in early childhood and was previously the preschool teacher. She has completed the NAC course. Ms. Van Note started with the program in October 2016. She became the director in July 2020. Ashley Schwartz is in charge when Ms. Van Note is not present. There are 15 staff members employed by the center.

The center operates out of the same building as Oelwein Elementary and the NEICAC Head Start Program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. The three-year-old preschool program operates during the school year and parents have the option of having their children attend on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 am. The voluntary four-year-old preschool program is regulated under the Department of Education, not HHS. The childcare center serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 77 children enrolled.

The childcare center operates out of the following classrooms: Sprouts (birth until they walk), Pea Wees (approximately 12-24 months old), Climbers (two-year-olds), Travelers (three through five-year-olds), and Husky Care (three-year-old preschool class and school-aged children). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for all the rooms except for the preschool/school-age room. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects and child friendly posters. The children's birthdays were posted. There are areas for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, play dough, woodworking, sensory table, puppets, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Most materials were in good condition. In the PeaWee's room there is a blue vinyl couch that is torn and needs repaired or removed. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

The program currently uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. There is a resource shelf for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits in each classroom. Post an evacuation diagram near the door to the cafeteria in the Husky Care room. A daily schedule was posted in each room. The school moved the preschool class/Husky Care room to a new classroom in the school. Lesson plans were available for review. Parents are provided monthly newsletters. There are cameras in each room so that the director can monitor the rooms for safety, staff interaction, and compliance with licensing standards.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Each room practices and documents their own fire and tornado drills. In the Climber's room there were only drills documented for April, May and June 2024. If you are going to

have each room practice drills on their own you have to insure they are getting done. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in June 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection or carbon monoxide detector. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/24/23, with compliance on 05/25/23.

The center is using the Playground app to complete daily sheets for the children under the age two and to communicate with all the families.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. There is a four-week rotation for the snack menu and a new breakfast and lunch menu is made each month by school personnel. All food is prepared on site by the Oelwein school district cook. The children are served their meals and snack by the teachers in the classroom except for the school-aged children who eat in the cafeteria. The children go through a line cafeteria style and the kitchen staff put food on their tray. Staff members eat with the children to model appropriate behavior and assist as necessary.

The center provides one brand of formula, but most parents bring their own. The center provides baby food and cereal. The bottles are cleaned in the room and sent to the kitchen to be sanitized. Some parents take the bottles home each night. There is a refrigerator in the Sprouts rooms. Thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and to disinfect the changing tables.

I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members. In the infant room the staff member was only washing the child's hands with wet wipes. I informed her that all infants must have their hands washed with soap and water following diaper changes and this was corrected. In the Climber's room the staff member did not wash the child's hands. I informed her this must always occur.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The school and Head Start partnered to develop the playground. The playground is used by preschool and school-aged children. It is a large fenced in area with several choices for the children. They use a synthetic turf specifically made for playgrounds with a cushioning material. There is a concreate path and real grass for the children also. There are several pieces of climbing equipment that include activities like slides, climbing walls and still rings. There are different types of swings and steppingstones for balance. There is an obstacle course. There is a playhouse with a tunnel and a play doctor office and fire department area. They have a basketball hoop, music center and there are several games painted directly into the turf, such as tic tac toe, hopscotch, four square and a bullseye.

On the north side of the childcare center a new playground has been developed for the younger children. It also uses turf for fall surfacing. There is no climbing equipment. There are pushing toys, riding toys and multiple playhouses. There are artificial hills and tunnels for the children. There is a dramatic play center and woodworking center. There is a storage container with several activities, including balls, transportation. Etc.

Staff members have fun and creative activities for the children to help teach them learn. Staff members provide clear and easy to understand directions to the children. Staff members are enthusiastic and provide the children with praise. Staff members sang with the children while they washed their hands. They had conversations with the children about sharing. Staff members provide the children with choices and were actively engaged in activities with the children. Staff members used play to teach the children about colors and counting. Positive redirection was used when necessary. The children enjoyed their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Van Note states their center is the "guinea pig" for a new Targeted Social Skills Training. It incorporates some PBIS tactics but goes above it. They learned about social emotional support for children, how routines affect everything, Tucker Turtle, friendship skills and problem solving for different behaviors. It is a three week training and they go one night per week for two hours. Ms. Van Note states the training has been very beneficial.

Ms. Van Note states all but one of two of her staff members have completed PBIS training.

Ms. Van Note states she has reliable, very good staff right now.

Ms. Van Note states that her assistant, Ashley Schwartz, is going to teach the preschool class this year.

Ms. Van Note states she tries to help their community as much as she can with the center.

Ms. Van Note states she and Ms. Schwartz are going to take an ASQ assessment training and then teach it to the other staff members.

The center is using the Playground app to complete daily sheets and to communicate with families.

Ms. Van Note states the center is flexible and tries to be accommodating to families and staff members.

Ms. Van Note states they are the only childcare center in the community and they have a good reputation. When families leave, they report nice things about the center.

The program is in a secured building and they are going to purchase new cameras for the center.

Ms. Van Note states they are applying for an IQ4K level 1.

Ms. Van Note has completed NAC training.

The program provides conferences to the parents in March and October.

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

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area.One changing table for every 15 infants/toddlers needing diaper changes.Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
Additional concerns: I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members. In the infant room the staff member was only washing the child's hands with wet wipes. I informed her that all infants must have their hands washed with soap and water following diaper changes and this was corrected. In the Climber's room the staff member did not wash the child's hands. I informed her this must always occur.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Ashley Schwartz as the new director. She started this position in September 2024. Ms. Schwarts has worked at Little Husky as the office manager since 2020 and had previously worked at the center as a childcare provider for two years. Marisa Van Note has left the program. Ms. Schwartz email address is aschwartz@oelwein.k12.ia.us

*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.