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

Name of Center: Little Wonders Child Care & Learning Center **Enrollment:** 105 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 33397

Street: 145 NE Dartmoor DR **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 145 NE Dartmoor DR, Waukee, IA, 50263

Director's Name: Emily Steele **Phone Number:** 515-987-0443

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jamie Skillen **E-Mail:** emily@littlewondersweb.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-24-2025

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:** 04-03-2024

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

Date Inspected: 12-16-2024

Comments : Waukee Fire Marshal.

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 School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	32	27	49	0	108
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 06-01-2024 to 06-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-25-2025

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 4/24/25. The owner/director was present throughout this 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.

Little Wonders Child Care and Learning Center opened in July of 2010 in Waukee, IA and serves children ages eight weeks old through five years in age. The learning curriculum used by the center is a combination of the Creative Curriculum and the Saxon Curriculum. The center also implements Hand Writing Without Tears. The director/owner of this center is Emily Steele. Emily has previous business experience and was an in-home daycare provider for several years prior to becoming owner/director of this center. The on-site supervisor is Jamie Skillen. Jamie has an AA degree in General Education and has worked at this center for roughly seven years.

There are five classrooms. The infant room has a capacity of 14 children. The one year old room has a capacity of 18 children. The two year old room has a capacity of 27 children (divided into two rooms). The three year old room has a capacity of 18 children. The four/five room has a capacity of 31 children.

During the visit, children were observed napping in cribs and having tummy time in the infant classroom. Another child was being held by staff. One child was in a bouncy seat after being bottle fed. In other classrooms, children were napping on cots as the inspection visit took place during nap time for the majority of children. Staff and some children still awake gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Interior painting has been done over the past year in some classrooms and hallways.

Enrollment remains steady.

Children, based on their ages, are taught sign language, Spanish, and yoga.

Parent teacher conferences are held two times each year for children three through five years of age. Portfolios are also kept for children ages two through five and parents are given monthly updates on children's progress/activities.

Formal and quarterly staff meetings are held. Informal meetings are held more often between staff.

There is a secure entrance into the main center area. Parents are given a code. Other visitors have to ring a doorbell and be

given access. There is also a camera security system in place at the center.

The director/owner of the center is organized.

Many tenured staff work at this center.

Staff pictures are posted outside of classrooms.

The center has received 100% on their immunization audits the past ten years in a row.

Classrooms were nicely decorated. Classrooms looked and smelled clean.

Staff and children files were very nicely organized.

Staff reportedly work well with each other and there is a real sense of teamwork.

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. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
All cleaning bottles and/or water bottles should be labeled.

109.12(4): Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.
Spacing between napping children should be three feet apart at a minimum.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is was last conducted 4/27/23 - 5/1/23. 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 annual furnace inspection was last completed 12/31/24.

The only field trips taken are walking field trips to local businesses and/or bringing agencies in for presentations to the children.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff should have I - Power profiles and staff should be uploading their training certificates if these trainings are not automatically uploaded to profiles.

The center's most current license was emailed to them.

*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.