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

Name of Center: La Petite Academy - Des Moines **Enrollment:** 109 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6987

Street: 5708 SW 9th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50315 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5708 SW 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50315

Director's Name: Jenny Snyder **Phone Number:** 515-285-6975

On-Site Supervisor(s): Paula Baber **E-Mail:** 7264@lapetite.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-10-2025

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:** 01-10-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-20-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Des Moines Fire Dep. Orlando Vivione.

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 X Other 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	6	6	58	30	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 03-05-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 2-10-25. The Director was present for the entire visit.

This is one of the two La Petite centers in the metro area. They are owned by the Learning Care group, a for profit company based in Michigan that owns child care centers nationwide. Jenny Snyder has been the director at this site since 1991. The center has sole-occupancy of the building. Paula Baber is the assistant director/on-site supervisor, she has worked at the center for 36 years. They both meet the requirements for their positions.

This center is open from 6:00 am-6:00 pm. They serve children 18 months old up to 12 years old.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The playground was completely snow covered.

Room observations/activities: The center uses curriculum from the Learning Care group education department. The Learning Care group has it's own curriculum and staff can pull from this curriculum for lesson plans and themes and ideas, staff can even call the education department for ideas on not only curriculum, but for behavior guidance as well. The Learning care group also has what is called My Path, which is online help for staff for ideas and help. Assessments for children at this center start when they are two years old. The application 'sprout-about' is used to communicate with parents. The center has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The building is divided by ages; and each area is nicely arranged. Each classroom was in ratio on this day; and the staff were observed to lead group activities. The children were content during this observation time.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and the assistant director/director are currently doing the meal preparation. The center is enrolled in the food program and menus are in line with CACFP guidelines. The director is an avid participate in CACFP. Meals/snacks are served family style. Menus are crafted by the director and rotated. The kitchen is receiving new cabinets later on this day. The kitchen was in use, had menus posted and was clean/organized in preparations for updating.

Health and Safety: Medications are secured in the office and the director/assistant director administer. Handwashing signs are posted. There are first aid kits in each classroom. The center was set to get new bathroom renovation later on this day after close of business. Tornado/Fire emergency plans are posted. Drills are documented as completed monthly as required. Radon was tested 6-12-23 and all results below 4.0. HVAC is professionally inspected at least annually--documentation needed to be located as this is kept off-site; the director would inquire. There is a carbon monoxide detector on site.

Playground: The playground is located at the back of the center; enclosed by chain link fencing. There is natural shade and play structures. Safety surfacing is wood chips. The playground is in need of additional wood chips to keep function to the safety surfacing (additional wood chips). The equipment did not have obvious safety flaws but is aged.

Transportation/field trips: This center provides before/after school transportation to/from some schools in the area. The center leases fleet 14-passenger vans. Maintenance is completed by the lease holder.

Administrative Review: Information about mandatory reporting; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans were posted; the non-smoking sign would need reposted as the director had just cleaned the door window. Five employee files were reviewed with one employee needing to update CPR/1st Aid training and this training is set for 3/8/25 per the director. Five child files were reviewed and contained all the required information.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has very little staff turnover, and most of the staff have worked together at this center for a number of years.

There are six lead teachers at this center and two of them have been at this center for twenty years. The assistant director has been with the center for 35+ years and the director has been with the center for 35+ years.

The director feels the center is established in the community and has a good reputation.

The center has a Facebook page and a website and maintains good communication with families.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has maintained strong enrollment.

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

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1
The director has set training to be updated for this staff on 3-8-25.

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 space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. 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.

The playground was observed to need additional wood chips to maintain functionality for the safety surfacing.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the CACFP (food program) and their menu's reflect they are following the CACFP guidelines.

The staff were observed to be actively engaged in leading activities with the children.

Radon testing is required every five years The center conducted radon testing 6/12/23 and all results fell below 4.0.

It was noted the east wall (entrance) of the center was observed to be in disrepair with chipping paint which could use repair.

*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.