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

Name of Center: Little Tigers Clubhouse - Gilbert **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51456

Street: 105 Ammerman ST **City:** Gilbert Iowa **Zip** 50105 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 105 Ammerman ST, Gilbert, IA, 50105

Director's Name: Elizabeth Miner **Phone Number:** 515-233-3005

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rebekah Shield **E-Mail:** gilbert1@littletigerslearning.com anika@littletigerslearning.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-27-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-04-2021

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

Date Inspected: 05-26-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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	36	11	47	22	116
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 11-04-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 10-27-23. The director was present throughout the visit.

Little Tigers Clubhouse was given Permission to Open on 6/1/21. Anika Blum is the owner of this center, as well as two other centers in Adel, Iowa. Anika purchased this center in May of 2021 The center director is Elizabeth Miner. Elizabeth has five years of prior director experience and several college level courses; along with several years of childcare experience. Rebekah (Bekah) Shield is the on-site supervisor. Bekah has a Bachelor's degree in Child, Adult and Family Services and childcare experience. Both meet the qualifications.

This center moved to its current location in 2022, with sole occupancy of this newly constructed building. The center is open Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM and provides care to children age 6 weeks to roughly age 5/6. The school-age program is not open at this time due to staffing.

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.

Room Observations/activities. The site has 8 enclosed classrooms, a full kitchen, a staff lounge and two enclosed offices at the front entrance. There are two separate outdoor playground areas, fenced in, separated by age; one for infants/toddlers and two year old children, and the other for children age 3 and up. The center utilizes Frog Street Curriculum. This curriculum also ties in Conscious Discipline and is a well rounded curriculum with social, emotional and academic properties for ages infant up to preschool. The uses he Pro Care system and cameras are installed in every classroom that record. Lesson plans are posted. The staff were consistently observed to be responsive and nurturing with the children. The staff maintain good structure in the rooms, which had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities and toys. This center uses pre-mix Clorax solution of hygrogen peroxide, Oxivir, and bleach/water to clean and sanitize. Discussion took place regarding the need to deep clean the changing mats and tables, then maintaining this cleanliness as most were observed with debris on the table under the mats.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen with dedicated Kitchen staff--Chef Mary. Menus are posted and on a rotation; following CACFP guidelines. Dry storage and refrigerator storage were clean/organized. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and served family-style by staff in the classrooms. The center has an aging stove, while clean, is missing a cover to the warming drawer on the bottom of the stand-alone stove, which could use replacement.

Health and Safety: Emergency Medications are stored securely in rooms when they are indicated; other wise are stored securely in the office. Handwashing posters are hung and staff were observed to model and require good handwashing techniques. Tornado/Fire escape plan are hung. Fire/Tornado drills are documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon testing was completed 10/2023 and all rooms tested below 4.0. The HVAC system is maintained by a professional and was last inspected 10/4/23. There are several carbon monoxide detector through out this center. Overall this center was very clean, and organized.

Playground: Play grounds are separated by age and enclosed with chain link fencing. Shades are stored for winter but available in the summer months per the director. Surfacing is artificial grass. While there are not play structures, the center has a good variety of outdoor play equipment that was all in good repair.

Transportation/Field trips. There is not regular transportation provided. On Fields trips, the center has a van available that is maintained by the owners.

Administrative review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans and no-smoking signs are conspicuously posted. Five child were reviewed with 2 missing updated physicals or health statements. Five employee files were reviewed; 2 have had national checks submitted but did not have information results; One employee missing CPR/First aid along with not have a physical form on file within three months of hire. The director has been in contact with CCR&R for assistance with the national checks process and an appointment has been set.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center fulfills a needed service in the community.

The center has developed a relationship with the school district and with AEA. The center partners well with AEA and has had AEA come out for observations of classrooms and this has been a support for the teachers.

The center uses Pro-Care for communication and daily notes.

The staff work well together as a team and are a support to each other.

The administrative team lets staff know they are valued. The director hands out staff thank you notes and is going to start acknowledging a staff of the month. There is a shout out board in the break room for staff to give positives to their co-workers.

The classrooms are set up well with good ease of movement and center activities.

The curriculum is well rounded and the children and staff enjoy and the children like new curriculum.

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

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.

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.
Number not in compliance: 3
The director was in contact with CCR&R for assistance.

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 was in contact with CCR&R for assistance.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The building is new construction and radon testing was completed 10/23 with all rooms testing below 4.0 cutoff.

The menu's reflect the center is following CACFP guidelines.

The director will ensure the staff missing their pre-employment physical gets this completed as soon as possible.

*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.