Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: La Petite Academy - Des Moines

Provider No.: 6987

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

County: Polk

Director's Name: Jenny Snyder

On-Site Supervisor: Paula Baber

Phone Number: 5152856975

E-Mail: 7264@lapetite.com

HHS Visit Date: 02/17/2026

Licensing Period: 03/01/2026 to 03/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 03/20/2024

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

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	6	6	58	30	100
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 2-17-26. 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. . 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.

The center has sole-occupancy of the building.

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

The Learning Care group has its own curriculum that has recently been updated called "Learn as we grow" 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 is divided by ages and staff were observed to be closely supervising children while resting or actively engaged in meeting individual needs. The children were content.

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The center is enrolled in the food program and menus are in line with CACFP healthy guidelines for eating. La Petite prepares meals on site fresh. They offer breakfast, Lunch and a afternoon snack.

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; which were insufficient to provide the safety surfacing that is required by manufacturer specifications on the play equipment. There were railroad ties that were uneven to the point they are posing a risk of trip/fall. The outdoor area is in need of updates to maintain a safe outdoor play area.

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.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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

The staff work together as a team well, including the director and assistant director.

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 and video monitoring.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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.

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.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

109.9(1)e Staff files are required to maintain certifications of completion for trainings.
>There was a staff file that need to update mandatory reporter training. The director indicated that she would have the staff update this training and notify the licensor that this was completed. No other follow up after the training is completed.

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.
>The playground area has been using wood chips to provide a "safe fall zone". In order to achieve the intended "cushion" for a fall zone wood chips need to be uniformly kept at a specified depth and the playground, when observed, did not have wood chips in a uniform depth to serve as a safe fall zone. Additionally, there are railroad ties that were laid to enclose the wood chips, however the ties are so uneven that they present a risk of injury by falling upon them or tripping over them. Discussion with the director took place; the director would contact corporate office for information to correct the concerns on the play area and then provide an update to the licensor.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

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A full two-year license is recommended.

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

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

Date: 03/05/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.