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

Name of Center: Rising Stars Learning Center LLC **Enrollment:** 61 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52499

Street: 20 Bennett AVE **City:** Council Bluffs Iowa **Zip** 51503 **County:** Pottawattamie

Mailing Address: 3805 AVE D, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

Director's Name: Shala Tolle **Phone Number:** 712-406-6388

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** shala@risingstarslc.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-25-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-16-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-07-2024

Comments :

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	15	15	10	5	45
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2024 to 05-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Kathy DeGeorge-Evans **Date:** 03-11-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year licensing visit was made to Rising Stars Learning Center LLC on 2-25-2025.This is a one story building. Shala Tolle is the director, she had a registered child care home for many years. The center provides child care to infant age to school age children Monday - Friday 6:30 am to 5:30 pm. There are 61 children enrolled. The center opened on May 1, 2024.

Observation of rooms:
The center was using three program rooms during my licensing visit on 2-25-2025 - Infant room 1, Infant room 2 and the Toddler room. The daily sheets are on the Procare child care app and they looked good. The rooms had lesson plans. The toddler is for children 2 1/2 to 3 years old and there are two children in this room due to developmental issues that are four and five years old. Shala reported that she has received a letter from the doctor for one child and she is working on getting an evaluation on the other child. Shala states the room is safe with the two older children present and that she tries to have an extra staff person in the room. Shala said this situation will be resolved when they move to their new location as they will have more program rooms.
The center was following the correct sanitizing and disinfecting procedures and are using the three step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water you must follow the mixing instructions on the specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting - they are mixed at different strengths. Bleach/water must be mixed daily. You can discuss other product options for sanitizing and disinfecting with your child care nurse consultant.

Nutrition:
An area is being used for food preparation, they are using a crock pot, electric skillet, air fryer/convection oven. Children aren't allowed in the food preparation area. They would like to apply for the food program.

Health and safety:
Shala reported they will follow medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication.
Fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented.
Radon testing is required within the first year of licensing. You can check with your local health department to see if they have radon test kits, they are approximately $15.00, and you must have a score of under a 4.0 pCi/L.
Make sure you have all of the required emergency policies and procedures and that staff are trained on them.

Playground:
The outdoor playground area hasn't been used, they can use the outdoor grass play area in the front of the center. Please complete the monthly playground safety inspections. Please make sure sticks and debris and picked up everyday from the play area.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Shala has staff meetings on a regular basis and she maintains daily contact with the staff.
Three staff files were read and were in good order. Six child files were read and were in good order. Make sure you have a copy of the Iowa DHHS child care policies and procedures handbook and that you are familiar with the rules and regulations.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Shala is very proud of her center, she has worked very hard to learn the DHHS child care licensing rules. Shala has received consultation and training from resources i.e. Child Care Resource and Referral and her child care nurse consultant.
The noncompliance items from last years licensing visit were reviewed and all items have been corrected.
Shala would like to apply for IQ4K in the future.

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

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required by age.

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.

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.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.

109.10(8): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children's hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.

109.11(2): A safe and properly equipped area is provided for infants that does not allow for intrusion by children over two years of age.
Children over age two who remain in the infant area are placed at the recommendation of a physician or AEA due to a significant developmental delay. Children are placed for a limited time with DHS approval if doing so does not pose a threat to the infants.

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.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.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.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Additional concerns: The infant room and school age room were too dark during rest time. It must be light enough to see the

children's faces and see their chest rise. The cots weren't covered - make sure all cots/mats are covered.

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: A diaper changing procedure needs posted at all diaper changing stations. The center wasn't disinfecting properly. Bleach/water is used and wasn't mixed properly. Please follow the 3 step procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA and child care approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. You must follow the directions on the specific bottle of bleach for mixing instructions for sanitizing and disinfecting - they are mixed at different strengths.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age:Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep.Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards.Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat.No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant.No co-sleeping shall be allowed.Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound.If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended for 5-1-2024 to 5-1-2026 for Rising Stars Learning Center LLC.
Off year licensing visit 2-25-2025.

The center plans on moving to a new location in 2025.

*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.