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

Name of Center: Little Husky Childcare Preschool **Enrollment:** 82 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19258

Street: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F **City:** Oelwein Iowa **Zip** 50662 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F, Oelwein, IA, 50662

Director's Name: Ashley Schwartz **Phone Number:** 319-283-2302

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashley Schwartz **E-Mail:** mvannote@oelwein.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 06-05-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 04-24-2023

Comments : Compliance on 05/25/23

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X 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 X 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	43	27	49	50	169
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-10-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 06/05/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Husky Childcare and Preschool in Oelwein. I met with Ashley Schwartz, the director. Ms. Schwartz became the director in September 2024. Ms. Schwartz has worked at the center as an office manager since 2020 and previously worked at the center as a childcare provider for two years. Ms. Schwartz has received her National Administrator Credential (NAC). Taylor Miller is in charge when Ms. Schwartz is away. There are 14 staff members employed by the center.

The center operates out of the same building as Oelwein Elementary and the NEICAC Head Start Program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. The three-year-old preschool program operates during the school year and parents have the option of having their children attend on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 am. The voluntary four-year-old preschool program is regulated under the Department of Education, not HHS. The childcare center serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 82 children enrolled.

The childcare center operates out of the following classrooms: Sprouts (birth until they walk), Pea Wees (approximately 12-24 months old), Climbers (two-year-olds), Travelers (three through five-year-olds), and Husky Care (three-year-old preschool class and school-aged children). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for all the rooms except for the preschool/school-age room. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects and child friendly posters. The children's birthdays were posted. There are areas for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, play dough, woodworking, sensory table, puppets, and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Most materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they are easily accessible to the children.

There is a resource shelf for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

In the Travelers room you must secure the electrical cod for a light near the white board. Also remove the charging cord when it is not in use. You must fix the cupboard near the sink in the Travelers room. You must fix the shelf in the bathroom connected to the Sprouts room. Essential oils were being used in the bathroom shared by the climbers and Travelers. Essential oils are not allowed in childcare. In the Husky Care room, the staff members must keep their purses out of the reach of children.

There are cameras in each room so that the director can monitor the rooms for safety, staff interaction, and compliance with licensing standards. I recommend not placing art work in front of the camera in the Climbers room.

The program currently uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review in each

room. A daily schedule was posted in each room. Parents are provided with monthly newsletters.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by most of the main program doors and outdoor exits in each classroom. Post an evacuation diagram near the door to the outside in the Pea Wees room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Each room practices and documents their own fire and tornado drills. In the Pea Wees's room there were no fire drills documented for April, May 2024. If you are going to have each room practice drills on their own you must insure they are getting done. I would strongly recommend doing center-wide fire and tornado drills.

I asked to review documentation of monthly playground inspections. Playground inspections could not be located for 2024 and Ms. Schwartz states she did not know she had to do them so no inspections have been completed since September 2024. Playground inspections must be completed monthly for all playground areas.

A radon test was completed in June 2023 and is good for five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection or carbon monoxide detector. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/24/23, with compliance on 05/25/23.

The center uses the Playground app to complete daily sheets for the children under the age of two years old and to communicate with all the families.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. There is a four-week rotation for the snack menu and a new breakfast and lunch menu is made each month by school personnel. All food is prepared on site by the Oelwein school district cook. The children are served their meals and snacks by the teachers in the classroom except for the school-aged children who eat in the cafeteria. The children go through the line cafeteria style and are given their meals on trays by the kitchen staff. Staff members eat with the children to model appropriate behavior and assist as necessary.

Parents provide formula for the infants. The center provides baby food and cereal. The bottles are cleaned in the room and sent to the kitchen to be sanitized. Some parents take the bottles home each night. There is a refrigerator in the Sprouts room and thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and to disinfect the changing tables. You must post the diaper changing procedures near the changing table in the Climbers room.

I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members. In the Pea Wees room the staff member left her gloves on through the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed with the soiled diaper prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. She did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change. I informed her that all infants must have their hands washed with soap and water following diaper changes. Following the diaper change the staff member washed the changing table with soap and water but did not disinfect the table with the bleach. The table must always be cleaned with soap and water and then disinfected. The bleach must sit on the table for the dwell time indicated on the product bottle between diaper changes. The staff member did not wash her hands between diaper changes. The staff member said it was only her third day. I informed Ms. Schwartz that staff members must be trained in diaper changes prior to working in a room. Ms. Schwartz states they would talk about the process during their monthly staff meeting.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The school and Head Start partnered to develop the playground. The playground is used by preschool and school-aged children. It is a large fenced in area with several choices for the children. They use a synthetic turf specifically made for playgrounds with a cushioning material. There is a concreate path and real grass for the children also. There are several pieces of climbing equipment that include activities like slides, climbing walls and still rings. There are different types of swings and steppingstones for balance. There is an obstacle course. There is a playhouse with a tunnel and a play doctor office and fire department area. They have a basketball hoop, music center and there are several games painted directly on the turf, such as tic tac toe, hopscotch, four square and a bullseye.

On the north side of the childcare center a new playground has been developed for the younger children. It also uses turf for fall surfacing. There is no climbing equipment. There are pushing toys, riding toys and multiple playhouses. There are artificial hills and tunnels for the children. There is a dramatic play center and woodworking center. There is a storage container with several activities, including balls, transportation, etc.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Make sure parents provide the complete addresses for the doctor and dentist emergency contact information. There were four missing

physicals, three outdated physicals, two missing school-age health statements and one outdated school-age health statement.

I reviewed two staff files. There was one outdated Iowa background check (SING).

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. You must add additional information to your staff training policy. You must add a statement that new hires need to complete universal precautions, mandatory reporter, first aid, CPR and Essentials trainings within 90 days of hire. Also, mandatory reporter training must be repeated every three years, not five years. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members were organized and had a good routine for the children. They provided easy to understand directions and spoke with the children in a manner that was easy to understand. Staff members talked about being nice and making green choices. Staff members were enthusiastic and were actively engaged in activities with the children. They modeled good manners and assisted the children with handwashing. They had children doing fun crafts, such as making bird houses out of milk cartons. They were attentive, nurturing and maintained positive conversation with the children. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the center.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Schwartz states she is working hard to bring things up to date.

Ms. Schwartz states the staff members they have are engaged in the learning process of the children. They know it starts with the infants and is important at every age. These are their crucial years.

Ms. Schwartz states the staff members are open to new ideas and ask for new ideas and resources for the classroom.

Ms. Schwartz states the center works with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

Ms. Schwartz states she had a group of staff members recently completed 18 hours of PBIS training.

Ms. Schwartz states they have mandated monthly staff meetings.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 03/31/27. She is planning on applying for a level 2.

The center offers a private pay three-year-old preschool class during the school year that meets Monday through Thursday from 8:30-11:30 am.

There are cameras in each room so that the director can monitor the rooms for safety, staff interaction, and compliance with licensing standards.

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

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
I reviewed two staff files. There was one outdated Iowa background check (SING).

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
I reviewed ten children files. There were four missing physicals, three outdated physicals

109.9(2)j: School-age (for children five years and older and enrolled in school): Annual statement of health status signed by parent is submitted prior to admission, certifies that the child is free of communicable disease, and lists allergies, medications and acute/chronic conditions.
I reviewed ten children files. There were two missing school-age health statements and one outdated school-age health statement.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so

as not to result in injury to the children.
In the Travelers room you must secure the electrical cod for a light near the white board. Also remove the charging cord when it is not in use. You must fix the cupboard near the sink in the Travelers room. You must fix the shelf in the bathroom connected to the Sprouts room. Essential oils were being used in the bathroom shared by the climbers and Travelers. Essential oils are not allowed in childcare. In the Husky Care room, the staff members must keep their purses out of the reach of children.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
I asked to review documentation of monthly playground inspections. Playground inspections could not be located for 2024 and Ms. Schwartz states she did not know she had to do them so no inspections have been completed since September 2024. Playground inspections must be completed monthly for all playground areas.

109.12(4)b: Each infant and toddler shall be diapered in a sanitary manner as frequently as needed at a central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and hand-washing procedures shall be posted and implemented in every diapering area. There shall be at least one changing table for every 15 infants.
I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members. In the Pea Wees room the staff member left her gloves on through the entire process. Gloves are considered soiled and must be removed with the soiled diaper prior to putting on the new diaper and dressing the child. She did not wash the child's hands following the diaper change. I informed her that all infants must have their hands washed with soap and water following diaper changes. Following the diaper change the staff member washed the changing table with soap and water but did not disinfect the table with the bleach. The table must always be cleaned with soap and water and then disinfected. The bleach must sit on the table for the dwell time indicated on the product bottle between diaper changes. The staff member did not wash her hands between diaper changes. The staff member said it was only her third day. I informed Ms. Schwartz that staff members must be trained in diaper changes prior to working in a room. Ms. Schwartz states they would talk about the process during their monthly staff meeting.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.