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

Name of Center: Rising Stars Learning Center LLC **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52499

Street: 24 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:

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **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:** 09-18-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Rising Stars Learning Center LLC on 7-2-2024.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 30 children enrolled. The center opened on May 1, 2024.

Observation of rooms:
The center was using three program rooms during my licensing visit on 7-2-2024.
Infant room had five children and two staff present, two of the children in the room were older than two years old - a four year old and a school age child. I talked to the staff about ratio/age of separation requirements and requested that the older children go to their age appropriate rooms. Staff said the max amount of children they plan to have in the infant room is six children. Some children were sleeping, the room was too dark. The room must be light enough to see the children's faces and see their chest rise. One infant (10 weeks old) was sleeping in a crib with a blanket and propped up on a boppy pillow. I told the staff that they weren't following safe sleep requirements and they needed to remove the blanket and boppy pillow - nothing is allowed in the crib but the baby. Safe sleep requirements were posted on the wall. Staff said if the parent want them to use blankets, boppy pillows etc. they use them - I told them this wasn't allowed. Please remove boppy pillows from your program as they are a health and safety hazard and they are for the use of nursing mothers. Child Care Resource and Referral also discussed safe sleep with Shala regarding an incident prior to my licensing visit on 7-2-2024.
The daily sheets looked good, they are recorded on the Procare child care app.
The sanitizing and disinfecting procedures were incorrect. The diaper changing procedure needs posted. Bleach/water was being used and wasn't mixed correctly and the three step bottle procedure wasn't followed. You need to follow 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.
Hand washing procedures weren't followed, the children's hands aren't being washed after diaper changing, they were using a diaper wipe. Children's hands must be washed with soap/water following diaper changing.
Shala said they are getting a new diaper changing table as the one they have doesn't have straps, the diaper changing pad is plastic in the middle and cloth on the sides. A diaper changing table with a non porous surface is recommended. The room had several containers i.e. bouncy seat, exersaucer, swing etc. Minimal to no use of these types of equipment are recommended - please remove some pieces of this equipment.
Staff do not have an understanding of the rules and need immediate training on safe sleep, diaper changing and hand washing, and sanitizing/disinfecting.

Two to three year old room:
There were eight children and a staff present. There was a fourteen year old child in this room. Again I discussed the ratio requirements/age separation requirements with staff. The cots need covered. The room had lesson plans/activities. Shala said they are working on setting up activity centers The diaper changing table in this room wasn't being used.

Preschool/School age room:
There were six children and two staff present. The room had lesson plans/activities. Some children were taking a nap, the room was too dark and you couldn't see the children. The room must be light enough to see the children's faces and see their chest rise. Shala said they are waiting for more cabinets to be delivered for this room. Staff weren't properly sanitizing, Lysol cleaner was being used. You need to follow 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.

The bathroom in the hallway that the older children use didn't have paper towels, the wax melt device needs to be removed as it is a health and safety hazard, and the floor need clean as they were very dirty.
Plastic bags were accessible to children - this is a health and safety hazard, please remove plastic bags.

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 may add a full kitchen in the future. They would like to apply for the food program.

Health and safety:
No children were on medication at the time of my licensing visit. Shala reported they will follow medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication.
Shala reported that fire/tornado drills were done on 5-14-24 an 6-7-24, please begin using the fire/tornado drill form to document the monthly drills.
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.
Staff do not have an understanding of the rules and need immediate training on safe sleep, diaper changing and hand washing, and sanitizing/disinfecting.

Playground:
Shala is working on the fenced playground area, until this is completed they have outdoor play in the front of the center is the grass area. 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.
Staff files were read and were incomplete - all files need an employee statement signed in their file. Shala said all staff national record checks and staff physicals were in their other files from when she had a registered child care home - I didn't see these files. Please review all staff files and have them corrected with all of the requirements.
Child files were read - one file needed emergency contact information for the dentist, one file didn't have a date on a physical. The registration forms are somewhat confusing as they have duplicate information i.e. the doctor information is required three times. I am recommended that you update your registration forms so that you aren't requiring parents to duplicate information.
You need to have a copy of the handbook - Iowa DHHS child care policies and procedures and you must become familiar with the rules and regulations.
Several licensing forms were emailed to Shala on 7-31-2024.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Shala is very excited and proud of her new center. She said she is committed to learning the rules and regulations. Shala wants to receive consultation and training from resources i.e. Child Care Resource and Referral and her child care nurse consultant.
Shala reported that the child care nurse consultant is scheduled to visit the center on 7-15-2024.
Shala would like to apply for IQ4K in the future.

Brenda Bera from Child Care Resource and Referral sent me an email on 7-9-2024 following her visit and gave me an update. She reported the following the safe sleep issue should be taken care of, as that staff person is no longer employed. It has also been made very clear that NO blankets are in cribs. She also has a new changing table in the infant room and waiting for the toddler room one, which should be there by the end of the week. Cot sheets have arrived and more have been

ordered.
She is working on staff files including physicals and background checks. Some cabinets are going to be in soon so that there can be defined spaces for the different rooms.
She has also switched to the 3-bottle system for cleaning.
She has the CCNC coming too.

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.
It is very concerning that there were so many violations during my licensing visit. Consultation from myself and Child Care Resource and Referral was provided to Shala prior to her opening the center on a variety of topics i.e. child files, staff files, sanitizing/disinfecting, ratio/separation of ages etc. It is also very concerning that Shala had the safe sleep information and wasn't following it.
I considered issuing a provisional license, but decided to issue a full license only because Child Care Resource and Referral reported they have been to the center following my licensing visit and are working with you on the violations and reported that you have already corrected some of the violations.

Please send me an email by August 15, 2024 letting me know how the non compliance items listed above have been corrected.

Administrative change - 9-17-2024 Change of address, the new address is 20 Bennett Ave. Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503. (They are in the same building, the building was re zoned for the new address)

*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.