Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Hawks Childcare Center

Provider No.: 51706

Address: 753 Main ST, Manilla, IA, 51454

County: Crawford

Director's Name: Maddie Garry

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7126545500

E-Mail: littlehawkschildcarecenter@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/27/2025

Licensing Period: 02/01/2024 to 02/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/30/2025

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] 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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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	20	20	40	40	120
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Little Hawks Childcare Center on 8/27/25. The building was renovated for the child care center. It was previously a school. The center opened on 2/8/22 and provides full-time child-care services to infant age to school age children. The hours of operation are 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The center provides drop-in child care services for school-age children only. Maddie Garry became the director in June 2022. Maddie has an Early Childhood Education Certificate from DMACC in Ankeny. She worked as a full-time teacher for over three years prior to becoming director. I met with Maddie Garry during my visit. There are 60 children enrolled. Maddie has an assistant, Stephanie Steckelberg. The center has cameras that cover the inside and outside of the center. The only places not covered are the bathrooms. Maddie is able to see all areas on her phone or on the TV in her office. Each authorized person has their own code to get into the building. They then check the children in or out on the iPad near the front door.

Observation of rooms:
The center is using five programming rooms and a room that is used for storage and getting meals ready. The rooms and hallways are all very bright and colorfully decorated. They display the children's artwork in the hallways. All program rooms were in ratio. The center is short-staffed due to high school and college kids returning to school, but the high school students help at the center after school. The children were observed having fun participating in a variety of activities throughout the building and on the playground. The school age children were in school at the time of my visit. The yellow room is for children under one year old. There were seven kids and two staff. There were two saucers, but staff reported they do not use them for more than 15 minutes. All of the cribs are on wheels. One of the staff members was on the floor and attentive to the children. The other staff was on a rocking chair holding one of the children. Daily lesson plans were posted. Every room makes their own lesson plans. The daily sheets looked good. They are on the Procare child care app and this provides excellent communication between the staff and parents. The pink room/play room will be the 1–2-year-old room depending on the child's development. The children need to be at least 18 months old. There were eight children and two staff members. They added a sink since last year. The staff had excellent interactions with the children. They were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. They rotate the toys regularly. There were a plastic bag and a purse on a shelf. This is a health and safety hazard. The purse needs to be put at a higher level and the plastic bags need to be removed. There were lesson plans, but they were not posted and not completed for August. The blue room is for 3-year-old children. There were nine children and one staff member. There is artwork displayed in the room. The room is bright and colorful. The kids were playing in centers. There was a variety of toys for the children. Again, there were lesson plans, but they were not posted. The 3–5-year-old children are in the teal room. Preschool programming is provided at the schools on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays. Preschool age children come to the center after the preschool program each day and full days on Wednesdays. The center has developed its own curriculum with many topics and themes. The theme was transportation at the time of my licensing visit. The theme changes every week. The preschool room has their own curriculum called A to Z Ready for Kindergarten. They follow the early learning standards. Each program room prepares their own lesson plans/activities. The rooms had a fun variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.

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Nutrition:
Company Kitchen (formerly Treat America) provides breakfast, lunch, and snacks each day. Monthly menus are posted. Food was sealed and labeled properly. The center is not a member of the federal food program but follows CACFP guidelines. There are two different staff members that prepare the meals and snacks.

Health and safety:
Fire and tornado drills are done monthly and documented. Radon testing was done in February 2024 and was in the acceptable range. It will be done again in February 2026. There are hardwired carbon monoxide detectors in each room. The boys' restroom needed handwashing procedures posted. The girls' restroom needed toilet paper as two of the stalls had none. One of the stalls was out of order and needed blocked off. Handwashing procedures are posted. All of the cribs and cots had sheets that are washed weekly. The evacuation plans were posted. Bleach/water is used for sanitizing which is mixed daily and HP 180 Complete RTU Hydrogen Peroxide is used for disinfecting. Staff know the dwell time is three minutes. The three step bottle procedure is used, 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. Bleach/water needs to be mixed daily.

Playground:
The playground has two areas. One side is for toddlers and the other side is for the older children three years to twelve years. This area has a playground structure. The surfacing is the poured in place surfacing. They are getting more equipment for the toddlers. Monthly playground safety checks were completed. They just added shade tarps in July on each side of the playground. This was paid for by fundraisers the center had. They are able to put up and take down the tarps depending on the season.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services. The elementary schools provide school bus service from Manning and Irwin Iowa.

Administrative records:
Child files were read and were in good order. Staff files were read and were in good order. Maddie stated she is in the classrooms a lot and is unable to complete administrative duties, especially in the fall when the college students go back to school and they are short staffed. Maddie has worked with Bailey Hill from Child Care Resource and Referral on a variety of topics. Maddie reported that the child care nurse consultant, Jennifer Chapman, is coming monthly to train staff on diaper changing, hand washing, and does a lot of continuing education. She comes and reads books to the kids monthly about topics such as washing hands and sun safety. The center is working on applying for IQ4K. Maddie tries to have monthly staff meetings. She meets with staff on an ongoing basis.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Little Hawks Childcare Center is a wonderful resource for the community. The staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. Maddie reported they have a lot of good staff and several have been with them since they opened. She would like to hire more staff since the college kids are now back in school. Maddie is very enthusiastic and proud of the center. Maddie has worked very hard to learn the licensing rules. She made all the corrections to the noncompliance items listed in last year's licensing report. Fundraising events are held throughout the year i.e. Fish fry, New Years Eve dinner/auction. The center receives grants for equipment, supplies etc. The center will apply for IQ4K.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.10(5): Staff hand washing: The center shall ensure staff demonstrate clean personal hygiene sufficient to prevent or minimize the transmission of illness or disease. Hand washing procedures shall be posted at all sinks. Please post handwashing procedures at all sinks.

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions: Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing. There was no toilet paper in multiple stalls in the

girls' and boys' restrooms. Please make sure there is always toilet paper in each stall of every bathroom.

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. There were a purse and plastic bags within reach of the children. Please remove all plastic bags and place the purse in an area that is not accessible to the children.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents. The written curriculum/lesson plans were not complete and were not posted for parents to observe. Please complete all written curriculum/lesson plans and post in an area that is easily viewed by parents.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 2-1-2024 to 2-1-2026.

Date: 09/08/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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**.