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

Name of Center: Little Knights Learning Center **Enrollment:** 62 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50237

Street: 1102 Clark Street **City:** Dysart Iowa **Zip** 52224 **County:** Tama

Mailing Address: PO BOX 672, Dysart, IA, 52224

Director's Name: Megan Bessman **Phone Number:** 319-476-2226

On-Site Supervisor(s): Hannah Hix **E-Mail:** littleknightslearningcenter@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 12-04-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 11-25-2025

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

Date Inspected: 08-14-2024

Comments : Fire Inspections are due at least every three years, compliance date 8/14/24 by Courtney Schuller DIAL

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 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	27	18	20	20	85
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 12-10-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 12-5-24. Director Megan Bessman was present through the entire visit.

Little Knights Learning Center was given Permission to Open on 8/14/18. In July of 2021, the center moved into their new construction building that is located on a lot on the school grounds, but is a free standing building and not connected to the school. . Megan Bessman is the Director, starting in this position in June of 2020. Megan has several years experience in providing childcare and was the previous on-site supervisor at the center. The current on-site supervisor is Hannah Hix. Hannah has some college education and experience in daycare. Both meet qualifications for their positions.

The hours of operation are from 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM; Monday through Friday.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room Observations/Activities: The center is using their own curriculum pulled from Iowa Early Learning Standards, each classroom has their own lesson plans based on themes. The center uses the pro-care application to communicate with parents regarding the children's daily schedule and goings on. This center is the sole occupant of a newer building designed to be a child care center and is on one level with a secure entry adjacent to the office. Each room has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate activities and toys. The staff were responsive and encouraging to the children, while maintaining good structure in the rooms. Lesson plans were posted; Handwashing signs also posted. The rooms were clean and nicely organized with art projects by the children or teachers. The teachers take pride in their rooms.

Nutrition practices: This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated staff. The kitchen is very clean and organized with menus and handwashing signs posted. Menus are on a rotation and in-line with CACFP guidelines. Meals/Snacks are served family-style in the classrooms.

Health and Safety: This program utilized soapy water and oxivir for cleaning/sanitization. Medication is secured in a locked box in each room. There are several staff with medication administration training. First aid kits are in all rooms. Tornado/Fire plans are posted; Drills were documented as having been completed monthly as required. Radon was tested in 1/2022 and testing fell below 4.0 cutoff. HVAC is inspected yearly by a professional. The director stated she would email this consultant the inspection certificate for the HVAC. There are carbon monoxide detectors located throughout the center. This center has an emergency/disaster plan; and this has been utilized when the center had a gas leak (that was rendered non-emergency). Staff and children were able to follow this plan and stay safe. The director is working to update handbooks to reflect the current plan.

Playground: Playground safety checks were documented to have been completed monthly as required. The playground is divided by age for structures and is enclosed with chain link fencing. There are shade structures with play structures with natural themes. Safety surfacing is pour 'n' play. This playground is in very good condition.

Transportation/Fieldtrips: There is not transportation provided, field trips are walking and the center is located on the same campus as the school for ready access.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and non-smoking signs were posted conspicuously posted. There were six child files reviewed and all contained the necessary information. Five staff files were reviewed, two employee physicals were either completed prior to six month before hire or after hire. It should be noted employee physicals are required within six months PRIOR to hire.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has a secure entrance and is in a new building that was designed to accommodate a child care center.

The center is nicely arranged and offers a good variety of toys/play centers in each room along with a nicely designed/well equipped outdoor play area that is enclosed for safety.

The center serves a relatively rural area and enrollment has increased since the center opened and is steady.

The center receives strong support from the Board of Directors.

The staff are nurturing and invested in providing quality care to the children.

The staff work well together. The staff communicate well with the families.

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

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.
Number not in compliance: 2

Employee physicals are required PRIOR to hire and within six months prior to hire.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A new full two- year license is recommended.

The center's menus reflect the CACFP guidelines are being followed.

Radon testing is required every two years. The center last completed radon testing in January of 2022 and all classrooms fell below the 4.0 cutoff.

This center is clean, well-organized and offers a plethora of activities and toys for children. Staff were observed to be responsive and nurturing with the children.

*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.