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

Name of Center: La Petite Academy - Des Moines **Enrollment:** 122 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6987

Street: 5708 SW 9th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50315 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5708 SW 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50315

Director's Name: Jenny Snyder **Phone Number:** 515-285-6975

On-Site Supervisor(s): Paula Baber **E-Mail:** 7264@lapetite.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-17-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-18-2022

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

Date Inspected: 03-03-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 X Other 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	6	6	58	30	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2022 to 03-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Debbie Hammer **Date:** 03-14-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 2/17/23. The director was present throughout the visit.

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. The playground was completely snow covered.

This is one of the two La Petite centers in the metro area. They are owned by the Learning Care group, a for profit company based in Michigan that owns child care centers nationwide. Jenny Snyder has been the director at this site since 1991. Paula Baber is the assistant director/on-site supervisor, she has worked at the center for 36 years. They both meet the requirements for their positions.

This center is open from 6:00 am-6:00 pm. They serve children 18 months old up to 12 years old.

The center uses curriculum from the Learning Care group education department. The Learning Care group has it's own curriculum and staff can pull from this curriculum for lesson plans and themes and ideas, staff can even call the education department for ideas on not only curriculum, but for behavior guidance as well. The Learning care group also has what is called My Path, which is online help for staff for ideas and help. Assessments for children at this center start when they are two years old.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has very little staff turnover, and most of the staff have worked together at this center for a number of years. They view child care as a career and not just a job. They are proud of the work they do and feel respected by the children and the parents. The staff work well together.

There are six lead teachers at this center and two of them have been at this center for twenty years. The assistant director has been with the center for 36 years and the director has been with the center for 35 years. One staff member has been with the center for eight years and three staff have been with the center for three years.

This center currently has a three star QRS rating.

The director feels the center is established in the community and has a good reputation.

The center has good communication with the parents and has a parent email as well as sending out monthly newsletters.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance.

The staff can wear uniforms, making them more easily identifiable as staff.

The center does a street fair every year, this did not take place during the pandemic.

Administration strive to let their staff know that they are valued and appreciated. There is a staff appreciation week every year, as well as teacher appreciation week and recognition awards are given to staff. The center celebrates staff birthdays and anniversaries. There is a STAR board on the wall by the entrance, which stands for Special thanks and recognition. The board has staff pictures with a short profile and a note pad where anyone can write something positive about a staff and post this next to their picture.

The center uses the Bright Wheel app which allows for real time information and pictures/videos to parents.

The director completes a check in with staff every 6 weeks.

The center takes a day off every year for staff training, this just recently took place and the parents brought in gift cards for the staff to help show their appreciation for staff. The parents are appreciative of the center.

The center has maintained strong enrollment, even throughout the pandemic.

The center received some updates with new cabinets and flooring in the kitchen and new countertops in the bathrooms. Some of the walls were repainted.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
One child file has not been updated since September of 2021.

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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: One child file did not contain information regarding a preferred dentist.

109.10(1)a: 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, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1
One child file did not contain an updated annual physical, the last physical was from June of 2021.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
An emergency prescription medication at the center was expired and the parent did not sign authorization for the center to administer the medication.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the CACFP (food program) and their menu's reflect they are following the CACFP guidelines.

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

The boiler is inspected annually.

The director will obtain a new prescription and authorization to administer the medication. The director is in the process of obtaining updated child enrollment forms.

Discussion took place regarding the floors in the two main child bathrooms having build up and needing additional cleaning. Discussion took place regarding some equipment such as shelving units and furniture needing to be replaced. The director has put in a request for new rugs, shelving units and new toys.

*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.