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

Name of Center: Little Sprouts Student Center **Enrollment:** 50 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52264

Street: 206 W Main ST **City:** New Hampton Iowa **Zip** 50659 **County:** Chickasaw

Mailing Address: 206 W Main ST, New Hampton, IA, 50659

Director's Name: Amy Ameling **Phone Number:** 641-394-5840

On-Site Supervisor(s): Presley Kohlmeyer & Destiny Hard **E-Mail:** lscc.director.nh@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-20-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-31-2023

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

Date Inspected: 09-05-2023

Comments :

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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	0	0	25	25	50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-23-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-28-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/20/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Sprouts Student Center in New Hampton. I met with Destiny Hard and Presley Kohlmeyer, the on-site supervisors. Ms. Presley has been employed by Little Sprouts since August 2017. She has been the on-site supervisor for this site since it opened in August 2023. Ms. Kohlmeyer has completed NAC training. Ms. Hard has been employed with Little Sprouts since September 2021. She is the lead caregiver and Ms. Kohlmeyer's assistant. She has been the on-site supervisor for this site since it opened in August 2023. I also briefly met with Amy Ameling, the director. Ms. Ameling is also the director of Little Sprouts Children's Center. Ms. Ameling started with the Little Sprouts program as the director in August 2020. She has a BA in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. She has a minor in speech and theater secondary education. She has previous childcare experience. Ms. Ameling is NAC certified. This site employs eight staff members.

The program operates out of New Hampton Elementary School. They were given permission to open on 08/23/23. It operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. They serve children ages three through nine-years-old. There are currently 50 children enrolled.

The center operates out of two rooms. The Honeybees cares for children ages three through five-years-old. The Fireflies care for children ages five through nine-years-old. An inspection of each room was completed. Artificial lighting is used in both rooms. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children's families, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, transportation, art, dramatic play, math and magnets. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. I would recommend having more centers available for the children in both rooms so they do not get bored. Please add centers as money allows. Secure the cord of the light table so that children do not have access to it.

The program has three bathrooms that are in the Honeybees room. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. There is an additional bathroom in the office area that has one toilet, one urinal and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted. There is also a staff bathroom near the office with one toilet and one sink and procedures were posted.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review during my visit. They routinely work with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) to provide a safe environment for the children.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors and outdoor exits in both rooms. The rooms communicate with the office using a two-way radio. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for two years. The tests results were within EPA guidelines. A fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in both rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 09/05/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) yet. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Snacks are provided by the center. The children eat snack in their rooms. Disposable products are used for snacks. The parents purchase breakfast and lunch through the school. They eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria and go through the line cafeteria style. Trays and dishes are washed by the cafeteria staff. The school provides the center with a breakfast and lunch menu. The center makes a new snack menu each month. Menus were posted and were available for review.

During the summer months, the school will continue to provide breakfast and lunch.

There is a refrigerator in each classroom and thermometers were present. There is also a refrigerator in the storage room near the office and a thermometer was present. Snacks were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal, or glass container and should be dated.

The program is using Odoban to sanitize the food tables. The product label does not include directions for food tables, so this product cannot be used on the food tables. The center stopped using bleach because it was ruining the children's clothes. If this is happening then you are mixing the bleach too strong. You must use a product that is labeled for food tables. If you contact the makers of Odoban and they provide you information that it can be used on food tables, please provide this too me.

Mats are used to nap. They are sanitized daily.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in the hallway outside of the classrooms. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The permission to open without a license was not posted. Make sure the license is conspicuously hung once you receive it. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program uses the school playground.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed fourteen children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. The current forms do not have a space to document the addresses. This should be added. Two files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information and two files did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information. Parents must provide emergency contact information for at least one other person other than themselves. Four files did not provide any emergency contact information. Five files did not have documentation of permission for field trips. There were two invalid immunization certificates. One was not signed and dated by medical personnel and one was not on the Iowa Department of Health certificates.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. Most of the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. The parent handbook did not have an unlimited access policy. This must be added. The program is new and is in the process of working on Emergency Preparedness Plans with CCR&R.

Ms. Hard was caring for three children the day of my visit. She was sitting with them during snack to model appropriate behaviors. She maintained positive conversation with them while they ate. She talked with the children about what good choices are and gave the children options. She sat on the floor and read to children before taking them outside. The children appeared to enjoy themselves in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program uses Pro Care to communicate with parents.

The childcare program can use the school gym and the playground.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states they have a good location within the school. Parents do not have to worry about transportation.

Ms. Ameling states they have a good partnership with the school. The school is supportive of the program.

Ms. Ameling states Ms. Kohlmeyer has an excellent staff working with her.

Ms. Ameling states that both Ms. Kohlmeyer and Ms. Hard are close to completing their CDA.

The program is applying for an IQ4K level of 1.

The program is in a secured building and there are cameras in each room.

There are pictures of the staff members in the hallway.

Parents can use the chassis to transport children to activities during the summer.

The program participates in field trips during the summer. They use the chassis for transportation.

The program is working with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R).

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

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 medical: 2
Number not in compliance for dental: 2
Information lacking: Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. The current forms do not have a space to document the addresses. This should be added. Two files did not have adequate dental emergency contact information and two files did not have adequate doctor emergency contact information. Parents must provide emergency contact information for at least one other person other than themselves.

109.9(2)f: All files contain parent authorization for attendance at center-sponsored field trips and non-center activities.
If an inclusive authorization form for activities is used, a copy is kept on file at the center.
Five files did not have documentation of permission for field trips.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number invalid: 2
There were two invalid immunization certificates. One was not signed and dated by medical personnel and one was not on the Iowa Department of Health certificates.

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
Snacks were not stored according to NHSPS guidelines. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal, or glass container and should be dated.

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.