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

Name of Center: Little Paws Daycare **Enrollment:** 33 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 39884

Street: 105 S East St **City:** Manly Iowa **Zip** 50456 **County:** Worth

Mailing Address: PO Box 190, Manly, IA, 50456

Director's Name: Lori Jost **Phone Number:** 641-454-3283

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jennifer Martin (lead PS), Amanda Stauffacher (Daycare) **E-Mail:** ljost@centralsprings.net

Date(s) of Visit: 11-14-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 12-15-2022

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: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			40	56	96
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2022 to 12-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 11-27-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Paws Daycare on 11-14-23 where I met with Amanda Stauffacher who is the on-site supervisor for the daycare, and Jennifer Martin who is the lead teacher for the preschool program. Lori Jost is the director that oversees this center and a sister program. All are well qualified for the positions they hold based on their education, experience, and on-going training in early child care and education. This program is located in the Manly Elementary school building making use of four classrooms. The center provides formal preschool programming, daycare services, and before and after school programming. Enrollment varies with the before and after school programming being available to all children enrolled in the school on a drop-in basis. There are approximately 33 children enrolled in the preschool and daycare program at this time. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed.

The general layout of the building and facilities remains the same as in prior assessments. The center uses four classrooms with one room for the preschool classes, one for meal service, and one for the daycare. The fourth room is being used as a teacher workspace and office area. The rooms have a typical school classroom layout design with a large open floor plan. Each room was observed to be clean with a few minor concerns related to maintenance. Most of these do not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern but it was noted that one storm shutter in the room used for meal service did have a pair of locking pliers to hold the shutter in the open position. Bathrooms are located off the main hallway and the teachers do escort the children to the restrooms when needed. Additional sinks are located in the classrooms to facilitate hand washing. Each room has windows on the exterior walls that also serve as secondary emergency exits. All exits were observed to be clear of obstruction. Each classroom makes use of furniture and play structures to define activity centers which are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas.

Both the Preschool and Daycare classrooms had a good variety of activity centers. Each activity center had a good supply of toys and materials that were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. The room used for meal service has tables present but also had additional space that could be utilized for play if needed. A copy of the daily schedule and curriculum were present for both the daycare and preschool and both follow the same curriculum learning focus to maintain a level of continuity between the two programs. The children were eating lunch when I arrived. After lunch the group split with some attending the afternoon preschool, and those attending the daycare transitioned to the main programming room for nap/quiet time activities. Good interactions were observed with all of the teachers being activity engaged with the children. The teachers in the preschool program were observed to be following the planned schedule with doing a teacher lead group music & movement activity. The teachers in the daycare program were observed to be assisting the children with settling down for naps by rubbing their backs in a soothing manner. The program makes use of positive behavior management techniques with using redirection, and positive behavior recognition to encourage appropriate behaviors.

Good health and safety practices were observed with the teachers escorting the children to the restroom to provide supervision and ensure that the children wash their hands. Cots were positioned so as provide spacing for access and to reduce disease transmission. First aid kits are present in each classroom and the kits do contain supplies necessary to address most common first aid needs. The program also has access to the school if needed for more serious health concerns, and to administer medications. Good cleaning practices were observed with the teachers waiting for the children to be out

of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners. Cleaning products and other items that could be safety risk to children were stored in areas inaccessible to the children.

Meals are prepared by the school and brought the program in covered dishes. The center does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. A refrigerator and some limited snack options are maintained in the classroom used for meal service. Good food storage and handling practices were observed. A copy of the school menu was posted and the served meal was consistent with what was planned. As noted the children were eating lunch during the time of the visit and while the teachers did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the tables. Meals are pre-portioned for the children and good food service and handling practices were observed.

The center has two playground areas with one intended for younger children and the school playground area for older children. Both playground spaces have a variety of play and climbing structures and pea gravel is used for fall surfacing. The pea gravel has developed a hard pan layer and either needs to be aerated or supplemented with additional material to ensure a proper depth of loose fall surfacing. The equipment in the preschool playground does appear to be of residential grade and is not anchored and while it is in good repair the center should make arrangements to replace it with a commercial grade structure when it has served its useful life. Shade is provided by the building, play structures, and trees in the grassy areas around the playgrounds. Each space is fenced and the fencing was observed to be in good repair.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily visible and accessible to parents and visitors. All staff files were reviewed and found to contain all required information. A random selection of approximately 50 percent of the child files were reviewed and of those 5 had missing, expired, or invalid physicals. It was also noted that while the center did have allergy plans for children with food related allergies they did not have one for a child with an environmental allergy for insect stings. Allergy plans are required for all identified allergies including food, environmental, and medication related allergies. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for required systems with the exception of Radon. It was reported that the school maintenance staff would have those records but the individual that would have them was on an extended period of leave.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This program has a very strong group of core staff who have been with the center for several years which provides a strong level of continuity and stability to program.

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

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: 5

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.
-- The fall surfacing of the playground has developed a hard pan layer and either needs to be aerated or supplemented to ensure a proper depth of loose material.

109.9(2)g: Any child with allergies, a written emergency plan. Copy shall accompany child if they leave the premises.
-- An allergy plan was not present for a child with a diagnosed environmental allergy for insect stings.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.