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

Name of Center: Little Endeavors Waukee **Enrollment:** 43 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50995

Street: 95 Laurel St **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 95 Laurel St, Waukee , IA, 50263

Director's Name: Tina Guerra **Phone Number:** 515-987-2482

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kayla Sopher - Beeler **E-Mail:** waukeedirector@littleendeavors.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-07-2024

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:** 05-07-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-09-2023

Comments : Waukee Fire Marshal. Licensing regulations require these to be done at least every three years. Waukee typically do these inspections more frequently.

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 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	16	12	43	50	121
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-10-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 6/7/24. The director was present throughout this visit as was the general manager, Kellee Baker.

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

Little Endeavors Waukee (formerly known as First Steps Child Care Center Waukee) was purchased by new owners around mid January of 2020. A new center license was opened at that time and the previous center license was closed. The owners are now Eric Kohlsdorf and Todd Figley. Eric and Todd also own Little Endeavors in Grimes as well as Little Endeavors in Ankeny. Kellee Baker is the new general manager of all three programs.

The director of this center as of 4/2023 is Tina Guerra. Tina has a BA degree in Child and Family Services and has past experience and professional development training in child care. The new on-site supervisor as of 11/2022 is Kayla Sopher - Beeler. Kayla has a diploma in Early Childhood Education as well as past experience working in child care.

The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age. The center currently uses their own learning curriculum based off of several other learning curriculums. One side of the building is divided up into classrooms and the other side of the building is a large classroom for either school-age children or preschool children.

During the visit, children were observed in free-choice play at the different learning stations in classrooms, napping in cribs, being held by staff, and having sunscreen applied by staff.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is under new ownership as of 1/2020. The new ownership has experience working in child care and owns two other centers in the Des Moines Metro area. There is continuity.

The director believed she has a good group of staff working under her. There is support from management.

Children were engaged in their projects and good child-staff interactions were observed and overheard in all classrooms.

New carpet has been installed in several classrooms over the past year. A major interior renovation with enclosing classrooms will take place in the more near future.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

The center was previously involved in QRS and looking into the new IQ4K.

The general manager and director believe there is a real partnership with other local businesses as well as the parents of children they serve.

Monthly all staff meetings are held. Individual staff/director meetings are also held.

The center is a school pick up and drop off site for school-age children.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1 new staff member as of this week was working without SING and fingerprinting being completed. The SING was completed at the inspection. Fingerprinting is needed. Both of these should be done prior to employees starting. SING results will be fairly immediate. Fingerprinting may take up to a week to a month to get back depending on what avenue the center takes getting those completed.

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: 1 staff member did not have a current physical in the file (same staff person as above).

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children.
There were several dangling cords in the school-age classroom that need to be more securely fastened to walls and/or tucked behind other equipment. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.12(4): .Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap. Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
Bedding for children shouldn't be touching one another while in storage.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
There were food storage issues in the freezer, refrigerator, and dry food in cabinets.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 2/7/21 - 2/9/21 and all classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The last annual furnace inspection on file was from 1/24/24.

For transportation, the center is a pick up and drop off site for school-age children. A center van is used for field trips. Children ages five and older are eligible for field trips. The center will also bring in agencies for presentations to children.

IQ4K (the old QRS) and I - Power were discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I - Power profiles and be uploading training.

It is again recommended that the Emergency Preparedness Kit be stored in a suitcase that has wheels for easier transport if ever needed.

It was noted that one child file reviewed had four days remaining in their 30 day grace period for getting another updated physical.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.