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

Name of Center: Little Sprouts Student Center **Enrollment:** 49 **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 & Presley Kohlmeyer **Phone Number:** 641-394-5840

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

Date(s) of Visit: 05-29-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-21-2023

Comments : Compliance on 09/05/23

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: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 07-01-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 05/29/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Sprouts Student Center in New Hampton. I met with Presley Kohlmeyer, one of the directors. Ms. Kohlmeyer has been employed by Little Sprouts since August 2017. She has been the director of this site since it opened in August 2023. Ms. Kohlmeyer has completed NAC training and has her CDA. Destiny Hard is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Hard has been employed with Little Sprouts since September 2021. She is a lead teacher in the classroom and Ms. Kohlmeyer's assistant in the office. She has been the on-site supervisor for this site since it opened in August 2023. Ms. Hard has her CDA. I also briefly met with Amy Ameling, also a 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 ten staff members.

The program operates in New Hampton Elementary School. They were given permission to open on 08/23/23. It operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 5:30 pm. They serve children aged three through nine-years-old. There are currently 49 children enrolled.

The center operates out of two rooms. The Honeybees cares for children aged three through five-years-old. The Fireflies care for children aged 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 and their 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 are easily accessible to the children.

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. There is also a sink in the Honeybees classroom and procedures are posted.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review during my visit. The center uses ProCare to communicate with parents.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors 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 five 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 08/21/23, with compliance on 09/05/23.

The program does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but only for snacks. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Snacks are provided by the center. All the children eat snacks in their rooms. Dishes from both rooms are washed in the Honey Bee room using the three step method. The parents purchase breakfast and lunch through the school. The Fireflies classroom eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria and go through the line cafeteria style. Trays and dishes are washed by the cafeteria staff. The Honeybees classroom eats breakfast and lunch in the classroom using disposable trays. 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.

The school provides breakfast and lunch during the summer months also.

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 stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program is using bleach to sanitize the food tables. The program uses Odoban as a disinfectant in the center.

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 license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. I emailed the program an updated contact poster for myself with my new email address and an updated HHS website.

The program uses the school playground and they can use the gym.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. The forms used do not have a space for addresses. This must be added to the form. One file did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There was one outdated physical. There was not a pattern of disregard so these items will not be cited.

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

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. In the staff handbook it states mandatory reporter training is completed every five years. Please correct this because it is required every three years. Also, Essentials is only required to be taken once, not every five years. Add a statement to your professional development policy stating first aid, CPR, universal precautions, mandatory reporter and Essentials trainings need to be completed within 90 days.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members in both rooms have great teamwork with one another. This is necessary because children from the Fireflies room must use the bathrooms in the Honey Bees room. They had open communication. Staff members use a sticker reward program that appears to motivate children. Staff members encouraged children to be independent and try new things. They assisted when necessary. Staff members were enthusiastic and provided the children with praise. Staff members took the children outside to enjoy the nice weather and burn off energy. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Kohlmeyer states it is nice being in the school and they have a good partnership.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states having the childcare program in the school eliminates the need for parents to worry about transportation.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states the children can use the school playground and gym. The playground has a lot of activities for the children.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states she has a good group of staff members.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states they receive breakfast and lunch from the school.

The program has organized and easy to read staff and children's files. The center has an organized licensing binder. Ms. Kohlmeyer is organized and does a great job, with the assistance of Ms. Hard.

The program is in a secure building and there are cameras in the room. The childcare center has its own entrance.

The program uses Pro Care to communicate with parents.

The hallway is decorated with the children's art projects.

Ms. Kohlmeyer has her National Administrator Credential (NAC) and her CDA. Ms. Hard has her CDA.

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

N/A

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.