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

Name of Center: Little Sprouts Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 97 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51477

Street: 1003 23rd ST **City:** Milford Iowa **Zip** 51351 **County:** Dickinson

Mailing Address: 1003 23rd ST, Milford, IA, 51351

Director's Name: Amanda Schwery **Phone Number:** 712-338-2349

On-Site Supervisor(s): Derek Schwery **E-Mail:** littlesproutsmilford@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 06-01-2023

X **Licensing Visit** **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:** 06-02-2021

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

Date Inspected: 06-02-2021

Comments :

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	45	26	26	37	134
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 06-02-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 06-01-23 and spoke Amanda Schwery, Director. Ms Schwery has an elementary education degree and 19 years of experience working with children. She has her masters in early childhood and special needs. Little Sprouts Learning center is a center that is in a former strip mall and remodeled specifically for childcare. Center has completed their construction on the east end of the new building and moved into the building 06-02-21. They were approved to move into this area of the building effective 12-30-21. Capacity was increased from 37 to 134. Center now serve infants 6 weeks to school age. Center moved from their old building which is now closed. Center is on QRS level 4. Center now has five rooms, a infant room for non-mobile area (6 weeks to 9 months) and mobile area (9months to 2 years); 2 year room; 3 year room; PK room and school age room. The center has 97 children enrolled. At the time of the visit 85 children were present. The center operates year around Monday through Friday 6:15am to 5:30pm.

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 center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families during this time. The center has been cleaning toys daily that children use.

The center has the following areas throughout the rooms for the children to explore and learn: toys, books, cars, kitchen, puzzles and blocks. During this visit observed the children participating in the following activities: free play(during this time children can explore the various centers throughout the room), lunch, outside time, and stories read to the children. Children have access to bathrooms. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Observed staff engaging children in conversations throughout the day, playing with the children, reminding children of the rules, singing songs, reading stories to the children and sitting with the children during mealtimes. Staff interact with the children in a positive manner and actively help them in all their endeavors. The center uses Mother Goose curriculum.

Meals are prepared at the center. The center has a full kitchen and the center is not eligible for the food program, however, follows the CACFP program. The program rotates menus every 2 weeks. Menu was posted. The center uses organic foods when preparing meals.

Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. However, the center needs to make sure meds are not expired. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Heating is all electric. Radon tests completed and within normal range. Good sanitary procedures are followed. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a fenced-in playground adjacent to the center which is still under construction. The playground is fenced and has 3 separate playgrounds for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers on up. The Playground has climbing equipment with turf for surfacing. Their are areas along the fence that needs to be repaired as well as cracks in the sidewalk which could

cause a tripping hazard and needs to be fixed. The center goes on walks for outdoor. The center does have a music room, sensory room with climbing wall, and a game room.

Transportation:
The Center has two 14 passenger vans to help in transporting children from the main center to the new center. Van has seat belts designed for children 2 and up. The program will transport kids to school and on field trips. The program takes PK and school agers to various activities in the area.

The director feels her strengths is the center's core staff and leadership team. Staff have a good relationship with the children/parent's and work good as a team. Most of her core staff have completed PBIS training. Center has security system, procare app, kinder music, STEM, and sensory room.

Goals of the center: For the center's playground to be completed. They are waiting on 3 shade structures to come in. More staff/kids for the program. The program has received some grants to help with putting in a outside stage, mud kitchen, and sensory toys.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Staff showed strong interactions with the children and participated in the children's activities.

Center uses curriculum to Mother Goose.

Program is on QRS level of 4 out of 5 tiers.

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

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 3

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.

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.
Cracks in sidewalk need to be fixed as well as a section of the fence.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Center needs to email consultant by 07-08-23 confirming that all aspects have been corrected.

A full license is recommended at this time.

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.