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

**Name of Center:** Lilypad Learning Center-AS at The Hangar **Enrollment:** 30 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51695

**Street:** 302 Campus DR **City:** Huxley Iowa **Zip** 50124 **County:** Story

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 41, Huxley, IA, 50124

**Director's Name:** Sara Hillebrand/Kelli Friauf **Phone Number:** 515-597-5436

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** N/A **E-Mail:** lilypadlearning@gmail.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 03-06-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-10-2022

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

**Date Inspected:** 01-07-2022

**Comments :** Fire Inspections are due at least every three years.

**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:** Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years 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 | | | | 60 | 60 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 04-01-2022 to 04-01-2024 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Debbie Hammer **Date:** 03-14-2023

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An off-year visit was conducted on 3/6/23. The owner/director, Sara, as well as the co-director, Kelli, were present during the visit.

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.

This center was given permission to open on 1/10/22. Sara Hillebrand is the owner/director of this center, as well as two other LilyPad Centers in Huxley and a center in Ames. She opened her first center in 2006 and named it LilyPad. Sara has her degree in Special Ed and taught in the school system for three years prior to opening her centers. Each of her centers have an assistant director who meets the 100 point qualifications to be a director, and Kelly Friauf.is the assistant/co-director at this center. Kelli has a Bachelor's degree in Education and experience in a child care setting. Both meet qualifications for the position.

This center is a school age center only, providing care to children between 2nd grade through 5th grade, up to age 12. At this time, the center provides care to children after school, during school breaks and during the summer. The center hours are from 6 am to 6 pm. Children who are in need of before school care use the Main Street location. The center will evaluate yearly if they are going to add before school care, if the numbers warrant this.

The building was renovated for the center. There is a large open room with couches, lockers and centers for activities. This large room has a capacity for 50 children. There are three smaller rooms connected to the large room, these rooms are a lounge room, a craft room and a game room. The lounge room and craft room each have a capacity for 4 children. The game room has a capacity for 7 children. There are large windows to see into the rooms. There is a hallway that has two bathrooms, each bathroom has two toilets and two sinks. Also in the hallway is the kitchen area and snack area. This hallway and another hallway lead to a large indoor gym area, which has a basketball court and sections for baseball, golf and other sporting activities that the children can use. The center has green space next to the building for outdoor play space which will eventually be fenced in. The total capacity for the center is at 60 and cannot go over 60 unless more toilets are added. The gym space is not added for capacity at this time.

The center does not have a set curriculum. They will have an art coordinator, a athletics coordinator and a snack coordinator. The center will conduct numerous field trips in the summer and they have structured gym games and art lessons.

The center provides snacks and the children bring in their own lunch when attending a full day.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The directors have many years of experience in the childcare field.

The building is designed specifically for school age care and was renovated with school age needs in mind.

The administrative team is working to develop a bonded and cohesive team of staff that stay working at the center.

The center has received positive feedback from the children and parents.

The building has a secure entrance.

This past summer the program took the children on numerous field trips and the children had an enjoyable summer.

The program uses walkie-talkies for staff to communicate between the rooms and areas.

The program adopted a tag system for the children to use to help indicate which room the child wants to be in and for staff to keep track of the children.

The staff have developed strong relationships with the children and families. The staff are invested in the program.

The program has developed a strong structure and the children know what to expect.

There is strong communication between the staff and families and between staff and management.

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

There were no aspects of operation that fell below the standards noted or observed during the visit.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The center has developed a preparedness plan and a disaster kit.

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in February of 2023 and the rooms tested below the 4.0 cutoff.

There was a marked difference between this year's visit and last year's visit. The program has developed a stronger structure for the children and a stronger means of children indicating what room they want to be in, and staff tracking this and monitoring this. The children were observed getting off of the bus and coming into the building, they followed what has become a set routine and this was organized and structured. The staff communicated well with each other. There was a sense of cohesiveness and structure in the program.

Discussion took place regarding the outdoor playground area. This has not been fenced in, however there is adequate green space and although fencing would be beneficial, it is not required given the location of the building.

*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.