Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Knights Learning Center - Mechanicsville

Provider No.: 42543

Address: 609 125th ST, Mechanicsville, IA, 52306

County: Cedar

Director's Name: Maria Porter

On-Site Supervisor: N/A

Phone Number: 5634326752

E-Mail: mporter@north-cedarstu.org

HHS Visit Date: 12/05/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/09/2025

Comments: Does Comply.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	20	16	15	60	111
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Little Knights Learning Center operates the following two DHHS licensed childcare programs: Little Knights Learning Center and Little Knights Learning Center - Mechanicsville. Specifically, this DHHS license pertains to Little Knights Learning Center - Mechanicsville located inside the North Cedar Mechanicsville Elementary Center which is part of the North Cedar Community School District. According to previous license reports, this center is nonprofit and overseen by a board of directors.

Multi-site director is Maria Porter. Maria started in 9/2018. Ms. Porter has a Para Educator Degree, has a plethora of experience working with children and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 12/5/2025, program space was observed. Primary programming continues to occur in multiple age-defined classrooms. The building has sufficient restrooms and hand washing sinks to accommodate capacity. Foods for the program are made in the on-site school kitchen which is inspected by the local health department. There are also outdoor play areas. On 12/5/2025, staff were observed to be in ratio and actively engaged with the children in a variety of activities that included infant cares, nap time rituals and routine transitions. Activities were observed to encourage child choice as well as elicit positive responses and interactions. Children appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying their day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

-The center utilizes Bright Wheel for open parent communication.
-The center is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
-The center director has been with the center since 9/2018.

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-The librarian comes to the center throughout the year.

The mission of Little Knights Learning Center is consistent with that of the entire North Cedar Community School District and "...is to ensure a safe and caring environment for each student, providing the essential knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes to create lifelong learners who are responsible, contributing, and productive citizens in a changing and increasingly diverse world..."

Little Knights Learning Center has established the following website for families and the community to learn more about their program: https://www.north-cedar.org/Little-Knights-Learning-Centers/.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Please note - there is nothing in the code that prohibits the use of portable sinks. However, licensing strongly discourages the use of portable sinks as they increase vulnerabilities related to water rationing, sanitation and transmission of communicable disease. Licensing did note the posted portable sink maintenance instructions as well as the verbalized extra steps being taken to help minimize the increased vulnerabilities. The current portable sink being used in the infant room shall not be positioned on a porous elevated surface (e.g. cardboard with wooden planks underneath). The nonfunctioning lock on the portal sink basin cabinet shall be repaired and/or replaced.

Ensure the infant room diaper station cabinet handles are properly reinstalled.

Please increase access to shade on the expanded outdoor play areas.

A new UL Standard 2034 (e.g. electric with battery back-up) carbon monoxide detector is required as the one you have is expired.

A full license is issued. Thank you for the visit.

Date: 12/08/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.