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

Name of Center: Little Irish Preschool & After School **Enrollment:** 14 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48414

Street: 1903 S Broadway **City:** Emmetsburg Iowa **Zip** 50536 **County:** Palo Alto

Mailing Address: 1903 S Broadway, Emmetsburg, IA, 50536

Director's Name: Jean Hyslop (Principal) **Phone Number:** 712-852-3464

On-Site Supervisor(s): Megan Geelan - lead teacher **E-Mail:** jhyslop@e-irish.org

Date(s) of Visit: 01-11-2023

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** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 12-19-2022

Comments :

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: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 01-24-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Irish Preschool & After School program on 01-11-23. Jean Hyslop is the school principal and program director, Megan Geelan is the preschool lead teacher, and Chelsi Titus is the classroom associate. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold. Jean has a Masters degree and 20+ years experience in early childhood education, and has been with the program since its inception in 2017. Megan also has a degree in education and took over the lead teacher position at the start of the 2021-22 school year. The school is currently providing 3 year old preschool program and has discontinued the after school programming due to low attendance. All aspects subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The layout and design of the classrooms used for programming space remains the same as in prior visits. The preschool program is located in a single classroom of the Emmetsburg Catholic School building. The preschool room has a long narrow design but is arranged to divide the space into activity centers that provide space for the children to play without creating any blind areas. High windows provide natural light but no ventilation or view. A secondary emergency exit is located at the rear of the room and exits through a storage space. There is a sink in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Bathrooms are located outside the room across the hallway. Children are escorted and supervised when using the restroom. The classroom was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to maintenance or design. The afterschool program previously made use of the school library.

A daily schedule and copy of the curriculum was posted. The identified curriculum on the day of my visit was Winter and the letter I. This was reflected in the materials and activities that were present with a crafted ice fishing center, snowman felt board, craft activities, and books. Good interactions were observed with the teacher being actively engaged with the children. The program has a very strong focus on learning with the teachers continually interacting with the children asking questions about their play and the materials being presented. As an example while reading a story to the children Megan would ask the children to identify learning concepts such as counting items in the picture, asking questions related to the curriculum, or how the story related to the children's lives. The program uses positive behavior management techniques with providing guided problem solving, redirecting, and recognizing positive behaviors of the children. This approach resulted in there being very few behavior problems and those that did arise were typical of children of that age and quickly addressed.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The parents take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of appropriate suggestions is provided. A limited supply of snack items is kept in the center to supplement as needed. Good food storage practices were observed. A menu of the snacks provided was maintained. The children were having their snack when I arrived and the snack served included Cheezit crackers, Graham crackers, and milk. While the teachers did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the table.

Good health and safety policies and practices were in place. The center makes use of the school custodial services to do the primary sanitizing and disinfecting of surfaces, but also cleans throughout the day as needed. Good hand washing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands as needed, and that they did so in an effective manner. There were not children taking any medications, and due to the limited hours of operation medications are not

routinely administered but policies are in place should it become necessary in the future. Information regarding allergy plans are maintained for children who have diagnosed allergies. A first aid kit is maintained in the classroom and had a limited supply of materials to address most common first aid needs. Additional materials are available in the school office. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible to the children.

While the school does have outdoor space available the children make use of the school gymnasium for large motor skill activities.

All required notices were posted in an area accessible to all parents and visitors. Staff and child files were reviewed and all reviewed child files were found to contain all required information. In reviewing staff files Megan did need an updated Iowa SING background check and physical, and Chelsi needed an updated physical. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current with the exception of Radon testing which had expired. The center handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program has made some changes that increase the focus on building school readiness skills for children. Megan identified that they are now doing more individualized skill development with children to support and maintain strong skills that the children have in addition to those that need to be improved.

The center is also sending home activities that parents can do with their children to help reinforce the skills they are working on at school.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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: 2

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
-- Prior testing results were expired and need to be renewed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. 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.