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

Name of Center: Little Feet Learning Center, LLC **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51602

Street: 521 4th St **City:** Rockwell City Iowa **Zip** 50579 **County:** Calhoun

Mailing Address: 521 4th ST, Rockwell City, IA, 50579

Director's Name: Rebecca Thompson (owner/director) **Phone Number:** 712-297-5621

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** littlefeetlearningcenterllc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-12-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 08-26-2021

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	9		13	29	51
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-23-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Feet Learning Center in Rockwell City on 07-12-24 where I met with the center owner and director Rebecca Thompson. Rebecca is well qualified for the position based on her experience, education, and on-going training. Rebecca does have an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education, and is also a Registered Nurse. The program opened in 2021 and is operated as a privately owned for profit program. The center provides full range child care services to infants through school age children. There are currently 42 children enrolled in the program served by 10 staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The program is located in a free standing building that has two separated spaces with one half being leased to another business. That space does have a separate entrance so that individuals making use of that business do not have contact with the daycare. The space is owned by Rebecca and could provide the opportunity to expand in the future if needed.

The general layout and design of the building remains the same as in prior visits. The daycare makes use of the front half of the building and is divided into three rooms by age groups of infants, preschool, and school age. Each room has multiple exits including direct access to the outdoors. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are available directly from the classroom spaces for the preschool and school age children. Changing stations are also available in the preschool and infant areas. Windows along the exterior walls provide light, ventilation, and view of the outdoors. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate safety issues related to maintenance. The panel divider of the school age room had been removed which provides a larger space and more open feel and includes additional activity centers. Activity centers were arranged in each room so as not to create any blind areas.

Activity centers include basic options for all children such as large/small manipulatives, art/crafts, and reading with increasing options for the older age rooms such as dramatic play, media, group learning, and larger arcade game options in the school age room. All toys and equipment were observed to be in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present. Items previously identified as choking hazards had been removed from classrooms serving children under 3 years of age. Staff to child ratios were maintained in each classroom as required by age. A copy of the daily schedules and curriculum were posted in each classroom. Good interactions were observed in each room during the time of my visit with the staff being engaged with the children and attending to their needs. One issue that was observed during the visit is that all age groups had been combined on the playground. This may have been due to a desire to have outdoor play before temperatures became uncomfortable but it did result in some of the older children engaging in play that increased the potential risk of injury for younger children. The center should schedule activities to allow a rotation where children of similar developmental levels can be grouped, and if groups are combined staff do need to provide heightened levels of supervision and engagement to help guide the children's play. Good behavior management techniques were used during the visit with the teachers using positive engagement approaches of reminders of expected behavior, praise, and redirection. Calm and engaging tones of voice were used by all of the teachers when speaking to the children. The children and staff were observed to have strong relationships and an easy manner of interaction that resulted in there being very few if any behavioral concerns.

Good health and safety policies were observed during the visit. Good hand washing practices were observed with the staff

washing their hands, and the children's hands as required and ensuring that the children did so in an effective manner. I was not able to observe a diaper change but the teachers were able to describe the practices followed which were consistent with the posted procedures. The required diapering procedures posting was missing for the changing station in the preschool room and this does need to be replaced. Good practices were observed when using chemical cleaners with the staff following the label directions, and directing children away from the area when using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, purses, diaper bags, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. The first aid kits have materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Safe sleep practices were followed.

The center does have a kitchen and meals are prepared on site. I was able to observe the lunch service and good food preparation, handling, and service practices were observed. Meals were pre-portioned by staff and served to the children. Staff did wear food service gloves when portioning and handling food. The children ate in the classrooms and while the staff did not eat with the children supervision was provided to the children while they ate. The meals served were consistent with the planned menu which does provide a good variety of credible meal options. Good food storage practices were generally observed in the kitchen and classrooms though there were a couple items that had not been placed in air tight sealable food grade containers after the original packaging seal had been broken.

The center does have a playground space with a commercial grade climbing structure, paved basketball court, and grassy area. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. Additional dramatic play structures, riding toys, balls, and other play items are available. Shade is provided by large mature trees from a neighboring property that overhang part of the playground. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures and a good depth of material was present. There had been some settling of the dirt along the edge of the paved basketball court which does create a tripping hazard and this should either be leveled, or a high visibility paint used to denote the transition point.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area that was readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Emergency evacuation notices that include both diagram and written instructions for fire and severe weather had been added and were posted by all exits from programming. The center does maintain a self-audit for both staff and child files and randomly selected files for both children and staff were compared to the self-audits which were found to be accurate. The self-audit identified that 3 child files needed an updated physical. The self-audit for the staff files identified 3 that needed an updated Iowa SING background check, 4 that needed an updated National FBI background check, 4 that needed an initial or renewed physical, and 5 that needed renewed Child Abuse Reporter training. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required elements. Radon testing was noted to have a reading just over the allowable cutoff limit and the center was following the guidance of the testing facility to conduct a long term exposure re-test to ensure an accurate reading.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Rebecca identified that the center had a year of stability following the changes of the prior visits with the change in ownership, renovations, and other events. The focus on stability of programming, staff, and child enrollment has resulted in the center seen stronger provision of service with staff having the opportunity to attend training, build relationships with the children, and focus on providing strong care and curriculum plans.

Rebecca identified that the center did hire a new Preschool teacher that has a CDA.

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: 3

109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs.
-- Number not in compliance: 4

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: 4

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current

certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 5

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Diapering procedures posting needs to be hung by the Toddler room changing station. The transition point between the paved pad of the playground needs to be leveled with the ground, or otherwise delineated to reduce the risk of a tripping hazard.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.