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

Name of Center: Little Endeavors Waukee **Enrollment:** 63 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50995

Street: 95 Laurel St **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

Mailing Address: 95 Laurel St, Waukee , IA, 50263

Director's Name: Tina Guerra **Phone Number:** 515-987-2482

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kayla Sopher - Beeler **E-Mail:** waukeedirector@littleendeavors.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-28-2025

Licensing Visit X **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:** 05-07-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-18-2024

Comments : Waukee Fire Marshal. Licensing regulations require these to be done at least every three years. Waukee typically do these inspections more frequently.

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	16	12	43	50	121
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-29-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit inspection was conducted on 5/28/25. The director was present throughout this visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Little Endeavors Waukee (formerly known as First Steps Child Care Center Waukee) was purchased by new owners around mid January of 2020. A new center license was opened at that time and the previous center license was closed. The owners are now Eric Kohlsdorf and Todd Figley. Eric and Todd also own Little Endeavors in Grimes as well as Little Endeavors in Ankeny. Kellee Baker is the general manager of all three programs.

The director of this center as of 4/2023 is Tina Guerra. Tina has a BA degree in Child and Family Services and has past experience and professional development training in child care. The on-site supervisor as of 11/2022 is Kayla Sopher - Beeler. Kayla has a diploma in Early Childhood Education as well as past experience working in child care.

The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age. The center currently uses the Learning Beyond Paper Curriculum with children. One side of the building is divided up into classrooms and the other side of the building is a large classroom for either school-age children or preschool children.

During the visit, children were observed playing on the playground, napping in cribs, being held, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Children and staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for fire and tornado drills. Children also discussed when they wash their hands.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is under new ownership as of 1/2020. The new ownership has experience working in child care and owns two other centers in the Des Moines Metro area. There is continuity.

The director believed she has a good group of staff working under her. There is support from management.

Children were engaged in their projects and good child-staff interactions were observed and overheard in all classrooms.

There is a secure entrance into the center.

The general manager and director believe there is a real partnership with other local businesses as well as the parents of children they serve.

Monthly all staff meetings are held. Individual staff/director meetings are also held. The directors of the three programs

also meet monthly with each other and the GM.

The center is a school pick up and drop off site for school-age children.

Enrollment has increased over the past year indicating a need in the community.

The center uses Pro-Care for increased communication with parents and forms.

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

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children.
Several outlet plugs were missing in some classrooms.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
INFANTS SHOULD NOT BE SWADDLED UNLESS THERE IS A DOCTOR'S AUTHORIZATION. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE INSPECTION VISIT.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
Frosted Flakes and Almond Milk are not considered credible per CACFP guidelines.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed 2/7/21 - 2/9/21 and all classrooms came back below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The last annual furnace inspection on file was completed in 7/2024 and is scheduled again for 6/16/25.

For transportation, the center is a pick up and drop off site for school-age children. A center van is used for field trips. Children ages five and older are eligible for field trips. The center will also bring in agencies for presentations to children. Preschool age children are transported by the center to preschool at another elementary school.

IQ4K (the old QRS) and I - Power were discussed at the visit. All staff need to have I - Power profiles and be uploading training. The director has had discussions with management and CCR&R regarding IQ4K.

It is again recommended that the Emergency Preparedness Kit be stored in a suitcase that has wheels for easier transport if ever needed.

Privacy dividers are recommended for the preschool-age restrooms.

Cameras with video surveillance is recommended. The center has cameras, but they are not functional.

A full-day schedule will need to be posted by next week in the school-age classroom when school is out for the summer.

The CACFP smart phone app was shared with the director during the inspection visit.

An annual permission for photos should be added to the annual child update form.

*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.