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

Name of Center: Legacy Littles Christian Early Learning Center **Enrollment:** 24 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50781

Street: 620 W 5th ST **City:** Waterloo Iowa **Zip** 50702 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: 620 W 5th ST, Waterloo, IA, 50702

Director's Name: Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis **Phone Number:** 319-595-1097

On-Site Supervisor(s): Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis **E-Mail:** chassidi@rlcawaterloo.org

Date(s) of Visit:

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 02-11-2022

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.) 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		6	20	20	46
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2022 to 09-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 09-15-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 08/17/23 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Legacy Littles Christian Early Learning Center in Waterloo. I met with Chassidi Martin, the director. Ms. Martin has a BA in Marketing Communication with an emphasis on Public Relations. She has three years of teaching experience and worked for a childcare center in Chicago for two years. Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis was hired as the new director, but she had a family emergency and it is unknown if she will take the position at this time. The program has five employees.

The program is in the Royal Legacy Christian Academy. The program was given permission to open on 08/03/20. It operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm and serves children who are two and one-half years old through school-aged children. There are currently 24 children enrolled.

The program primarily operates out of three rooms. Two of the rooms are program space and one area is primarily used as a dining area. An inspection of the rooms was completed. Windows provide natural lighting.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art/crafts, dramatic play, literacy, math, playdough, woodworking and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level so they were easily accessible to the children.

The center uses ABC Jesus Loves Me Curriculum for lesson plans. They also use Big Book of Bible Story Art Activities. The curriculum is Christian based. A current lesson plan was available for review on Google docs.

There is one bathroom in the back part of the childcare area that has one sink and one toilet. Handwashing procedures were posted. The children also have use of bathrooms in the front of the school. The girl's bathroom has five toilets and one sink. The boy's bathroom is on the second floor and has three urinals, three toilets and one sink. Handwashing procedures must be posted in both locations. The children also use the bathrooms in the gym. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and one sink and the boy's bathroom has two urinals, two toilets and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. You must post diaper changing procedures near the changing table in the program room.

The program uses a cell phone and emergency numbers were posted on the parent board. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were not posted by any of the program doors and outdoor exits. The evacuation diagrams must be posted near all the doors in the program rooms and in the gym. A daily schedule was not posted. You must post this. The program moved to new program rooms the day before my visit so they have not had a chance to move the postings yet. This will not be cited.

The program is using cots to nap.

In the dining area there was a purse sitting on the table within reach of the children and in the area on the upper level for the children three through five there was a purse sitting on a table. All personal items must be stored out of reach of children.

While I was present, a child came into the dining room area alone to grab some items for the teacher. Children must always be supervised. They cannot be sent alone to rooms or anywhere else.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The drills are being practiced about the same time each month. You must practice the drills during all hours of the program so that all the children know the evacuation routes.

The program is currently not documenting playground inspections. They have a concreate space they use and have a shed of toys. They do not have any climbing equipment. They also use a park down the street at the House of Hope. You must complete monthly inspections of these area used for gross motor activities and keep the documentation for review during licensing visits. This was cited in last year's report also and must be corrected.

A radon test was completed in April 2021 and should have been repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines at that time, but you must conduct a new test in each program room. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in the dining area on top of the thermostat. Outlets were covered. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 02/11/22.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Ms. Martin states she did not know they had to follow CACFP guidelines if they were not participating in the program any longer. Licensing standards mandate that programs follow the CACFP guidelines whether or not they are on the program. The program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Ms. Martin states for breakfast and the parents bring in cereals and they provide the milk. The program is not serving three creditable components and this is required. This was cited in last year's report also. Additionally, they are not serving two components for the morning and afternoon snack. This is required. Ms. Martin states they receive the snack items from the food bank. The program receives lunch from the Waterloo School System for every month except for August. In August they receive lunch from Maddeatz. Both deliver lunch to the program. The program uses disposable products for this. They do not use family style. The program did not have any menus available to review. You must have menus for breakfast, lunch and morning and afternoon snack.

During the summer hours the program has a school-age program that operates out of the dining area and they provide care before and after school for school-age children.

The children eat in the dining area. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There is a refrigerator in a room near the childcare office that is used to store the milk used for breakfast. You must add thermometers to the refrigerator and freezer areas.

The program is using bleach to sanitize the food tables and they were going to use it to disinfect the changing table. On the day of the visit there was Seventh Generation Disinfecting Cleaner with Hydrogen Peroxide near the changing table. Ms. Martin states that was what they used to use and it was left over, but they are using bleach. A diaper change was done on the table, but there was no soap and water to clean the table prior to the disinfectant. This must always occur. Changing tables should have the proper cleaning and disinfectant products available at the start of the day.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter information and childcare consultant and the handbook availability information was posted. The license was conspicuously posted. I did email the center the poster. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Staff members were observed to be actively playing with the children in the gym. They introduced activities and moved around the space to provide adequate supervision. They maintained positive conversation with the children and used positive redirection when necessary.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Martin states they are getting new staff, but they are also experienced and they are awesome with the children.

Ms. Martin states she loves the ABC Jesus Loves Me curriculum they are using. It prepares the children for kindergarten and is developmentally appropriate. She states it meets Early Learning Standards.

Ms. Martin states they are going to apply for an IQ4K level 2. They were a Quality Rating System level 1.

Ms. Martin hired Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis as the director, but she had a family emergency prior to her start date. She is hoping Ms. McCulloch-Lewis will take the position when she is available.

Ms. Martin states they have a passion for children.

Ms. Martin states they are grateful their space is large and open and they have use of the gym.

Ms. Martin states they have a partnership with the House of Hope and they can they use their playground. They recently added a new turf fall surfacing to the area.

Ms. Martin states she likes the small size of the program. She states they plan for growth but starting slow is allowing them to figure out what works.

Ms. Martin states she loves the faith-based component of the program.

The childcare program is open to the community. Children do not need to attend the Royal Legacy Christian Academy to attend the childcare program.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

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.

109.15(2): Center shall follow minimum CACFP menu patterns for meals and snacks.Menus planned one week in advance, made available to parents, and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

In September 2023 an administrative change is being made to name Rhonda McCulloch-Lewis as the new director. She started on 09/11/23. She was previously a co-director at YWCA of Black Hawk County.

*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.