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

Name of Center: La Petite Academy **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27521

Street: 929 E 1St St **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 929 E 1st St, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Cassandra Long **Phone Number:** 515-964-9491

On-Site Supervisor(s): Samantha Kirby **E-Mail:** 7262@lapetite.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-10-2024

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:** 09-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 06-06-2024

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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	20	13	47	32	112
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 07-15-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off-year annual visit was completed 7/10/24. Director Cassandra Long was present throughout the visit; Samantha Kirby (OSS) was also present during times of the visit.

This is one of two La Petite centers in the metro area. Learning Care Group is the parent company for La Petite. This center provides traditional child care for children age newborn to 12 year, Monday through Friday 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. There is full-day care and a before/after school program.

The center director is Cassandra Long. Cassandra has been the Director at this center since October of 2022. Casandra previous Child Care Director experience and child care experience since 2017. Samantha Kirby is the assistant director, a position she started Feb, 2023. Samantha has worked for La Petite since 2019 and has ten years of prior child care experience. Both meet the qualifications for Director and Assistant Director.

Room observation/activities: The center uses the School Readiness Pathway for curriculum. Sprout about application is used to communicate with parents. Staff are in ratio; and were observed to be responsive and attentive to the children. The school-age children were off-campus at a mini-golf outing; all other age groups present during the visit. There is a good variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys available. Staff maintained good structure in the classrooms. The rooms are nicely organized. There was discussion that deep cleaning under changing table mats needed to take place as visible debris was present. Handwashing signs were posted.

Nutritional Practices: This center has an on-site kitchen with a dedicated cook. There is a four-week menu rotation with seasonal variety. The menus appear in-line with CACFP guidelines as the center participates in the food program. The meals are prepared in the kitchen and served in the room family-style.

Health and Safety: Medication is stored securely and are administered by the director or assistant director. The center has first aid kits available and emergency plans for tornado and fire emergencies are posted as required. The parent company of this center sets the dates/times for emergency drills. The director and assistant director indicated the drills were completed monthly however documentation was difficult to locate. The parent company of the center hires/maintains the HVAC systems. T Discussion took place regarding the need for cleaning under the changing mats on the changing tables. Radon completed 6/14/23. There is a carbon monoxide detector located in the school age room.

Playground: The center's outdoor play area is fenced and separated by ages. The outdoor play areas offer a variety of structures and activities. The structures were in good repair. Surfacing is grass and artificial turf. There are shade structures. Some structures have wood chips surfacing. The outdoor play areas and structures were in good condition.

Transportation/field trips: this center offers some before/after school transportation, by vans that are maintained professionally by a local dealer.

Administrative Records: Information for mandatory reporting; handbook, license were posted; a new consultant contact

flier was provided. Non-smoking signs were posted as required. There were 5 staff files reviewed, one needing an updated Iowa SING check; and an employee needing to provide proof of physical and a physical that took place after employment rather then prior as required.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center is able to offer part-time care.

This center has a few long-term staff members, some with upwards of 20+ years with the center.

The staff wear company shirts or solid colors to make them easily identifiable.

The center has a secure entrance and cameras.

The center, though the Learning Care Group, has a behavior support team that they can access to assist with children presenting with challenging or difficult behaviors.

The center continues to work with AEA.

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. One staff file needed an updated SING check.

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 (one staff was missing proof of physical; the other staff provided a physical form, completed after hire; rather then within 6 months prior to hire as required).

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: 1
*one staff needed to repeated mandatory reporter training

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for dental: 2

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 2
Two children missing physicals and emergency dental contact information.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the food program (CACFP) and is following the guidelines.

The center last completed radon testing on6/14/23 and all rooms tested fell under the 4.0 cutoff, and is not due again x5 years.

The annual furnace inspection is completed every fall.

The director will reviewed with staff and ensure staff are completing necessary and required cleaning for changing mats, including underneath the mats.

*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.