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

Name of Center: Little Rascals Preschool & Daycare **Enrollment:** 49 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50152

Street: 400 1st AVE SE **City:** LeMars Iowa **Zip** 51031 **County:** Plymouth

Mailing Address: 400 1st AVE SE, LeMars, IA, 51031

Director's Name: Amber Hanson **Phone Number:** 712-541-6650

On-Site Supervisor(s): Nicki Rolling **E-Mail:** littlerascalslemars@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-05-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 02-01-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-13-2023

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: Infants (0-23 mo.) 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			27	6	33
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2023 to 03-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jana Drew **Date:** 02-13-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Visited center on 02-05-24 and spoke with Amber Hanson director and Nicki Rolling - onsite supervisor. Ms Hanson has a degree in elementary education with a early childhood endorsement. She had done in home childcare for 4 years. She also worked for 7 years with the headstart program. Nicki also has an elementary education degree and is the preschool teacher for the center. Little Rascals Preschool and Childcare is located at the previous St. George's Preschool which is located in one room of St George's Episcopal Church in LeMars. The center operates Monday thru Friday 7:00am-5:30pm. The preschool program is part of the Statewide Preschool Voluntary Program(SWVPP). They provide childcare before and after preschool. The center serves children ages 3 years to 6years(first grade). The preschool has 3 rooms, 3 yr old room, 3/4year old preschool and 4/5year old preschool room. The school agers use the 4/5 year old preschool room when present. Capacity was is 33 . Center is only serving 3-6 year old children.

There are 49 children enrolled in the program. There were 10-4 year old SWVPP and 11 in the 3/4 year old preschool program and 6 in the 3yr old room at the time of the visit. The center continues in following all guidelines put forth by DHS regarding the corona-virus and doing everything they can to support their staff and families. The center has been cleaning toys that children use. Sufficient amount of toys and equipment for the number of children. Daily schedule of activities was posted. Displayed throughout the room were colors, shapes, picture schedule for the children, job chart, children's artwork and the alphabet. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum and Gold assessments. The program had added the room for the 3yr olds, new flooring, however some of the flooring is coming up to where it is causing a tripping hazard and next to be fixed. Also there was a smell of sewer gas that needs to be addressed asap. Some updates in the bathrooms, laundry washer/dryer hook up as well as dishwasher hook has yet to be completed from the grants that was used to purchase. Contractor is delaying the completion of the project. The program has added a ramp for exit of the 3 year old preschool room. Center has started using the Bright Wheel app to help with administrative activities as well as to communicate with parents.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed
Snacks are provided by the center. The center follows the food guidelines but are not currently on the food program. Food storage is appropriate. The Center follows the CACFP guidelines.

Center Health & Safety
Medication is stored in a lock box or out of reach of the children. Tables are sanitized prior to children eating. Observed good hand washing procedures by staff and children. First aid kit is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Fire/tornado drills are documented each month. Radon test was completed, however, the results were very high. Radon needs to be redone in all child occupied rooms and if still high to contact a mitigator for assistance. Ms. Hanson stated that they have a mitigation system so will have it looked at as well. Annual heating inspection was completed. Good sanitary procedures are followed. Center has a functioning carbon monoxide detector. All program areas were observed to be clean and well maintained. Good health and safety policies /procedures are in place.

Center Playground
The center has a fenced grassy area for their playground. They would like to continue to add to the playground. Gate on

fence was broke and also needs to be fixed or replaced.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trip
Center does not transport. Field trips for the preschool only would use the school bus to transport or they may walk to various businesses or park.
Reminder when leaving the building that staff need to be in ratio plus one extra staff. Even when walking to children to and from school. Director is wanting to have the school drop children off at corner of the center building.

Strength of the program are that staff work great as a team, they have support of the school system, as well a good relationship/communication with the children and families they serve. For hiring new staff the center continues to use social media, CLEM-radio or word of mouth.

Goals of the center are to finish renovations, update their playground. The center is working on getting on IQ4K program. The program is also looking at purchasing the building along with the church building. If they purchase they would add another classroom, bathroom, and multi- purpose room for inside large motor development.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Center sends home a monthly newsletter to the parents. The center also uses Bright Wheel app to communicate with families.

Center does conferences 2x year.

Children's toys are at their level and accessible.

Center has child size furniture throughout the area.

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

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 medical: 1
Information lacking: Information was outdated.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, Chiropractor or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 1

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.
The program had a sewer smell that needs to be address asap. They also have new flooring that has come up causing potential tripping hazard. Also the playground gate is broke and needs to be either fixed or replaced.

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.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Please email consultant by 03-15-24 confirming that all aspects that fall below standards have been corrected.

A full license will remain in effect at this time.

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.