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

Name of Center: LilyPad Learning Center, Ames Research Park **Enrollment:** 100 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50123

Street: 3500 University BLVD STE 102 **City:** Ames Iowa **Zip** 50010 **County:** Story

Mailing Address: 3500 University BLVD STE 102, Ames , IA, 50010

Director's Name: Sara Hillebrand/Emily Robinson **Phone Number:** 515-520-8844

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ashlee McFarland **E-Mail:** lilypadames@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-20-2023

Licensing Visit X **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:** 08-02-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-17-2023

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 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	30	39	60		129
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2022 to 10-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-21-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual off-year visit was completed 10-20-23. On-site Supervisor Ashlee McFarland was present through the entire visit.

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

This center was given Permission to Open on 6/29/18. Sara Hillebrand is the owner and director of this Lily Pad, as well as the three other Lily Pad centers located in Huxley. Emily Robinson is the co-director of this center. Emily worked for Lily Pad for seven years prior to becoming the director at this center and has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Emily meets the necessary requirements for this position. Ashlee McFarland is the on-site supervisor. Ashlee has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Ashlee worked for Lily Pad for six years prior to becoming the on-site supervisor. Ashlee meets the necessary requirements for this position.

This center has approximately 100 children enrolled; caring for child ages 6 weeks to roughly age 5, Monday through Friday 6:30 to 6:00 PM. The center shares the building with a medical clinic, however there is a hallway/secure door that divide the clinic/center. The center utilizes its own entrance which is secure. The center also had a camera system.

All areas of the program were observed 10/20/23. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room Observations: This center has nine enclosed classrooms, serving children ages six weeks up to preschool age. The center also has a space for large motor play area within the building. The center uses the Creative Curriculum with a project based approach that engages the children and uses the bright wheel application to communication with parents. All rooms were in ratio. The staff were providing snack and getting the children ready to go to the playground. Staff maintained structure in the rooms and were responding to the children in a nurturing manner. The children were freely interacting with staff. The rooms had a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/toys. The rooms were organized with centers set up to maintain good supervision. There were handwashing posters hung and it was observed that staff would model and have the children utilize proper handwashing techniques. There is ready access to restroom facilities and necessary toiletries. There was concern and need for the changing tables to be deep cleaned, under mats especially. The center uses bleach water and commercial hydrogen peroxide for cleaning/sanitization.

Nutrition Practices. This center has an on-site kitchen and dedicated Kitchen staff. They are not participating in a food program Menus are posted and in a 6 week rotation; menu items are in-line with CACFP guidelines. The meals and snacks are prepared in the kitchen and served family style in the room by staff. Food storage and refrigeration was as required. The kitchen and food storage are very tidy.

Health and safety: Medications are stored secured and accessible by staff only. Handwashing procedure posters were displayed and proper technique was utilized. The center has several stocked first aid kits. Fire and tornado signs were posted and drills were documented to have been completed monthly as required. Radon was tested July 2022 and all tested rooms fell under the 4.0 safe cutoff. They are due again in 2027. The heating/cooling systems are maintained by McFarland Clinic (Owner and co-occupant of the building). The center has two carbon monoxide detectors. Aside from the changing tables needing a deep clean, this center is otherwise very clean and organized.

Playground. This center has two playground areas; both enclosed by chain link fencing. The larger play area has several play structures, and is surfaced with poor in place artificial turf that was in good condition. There is also cement in places. There is man-made shading available. The small playground is surfaced with cement and had small play structured. Discussion did take place to consider mitigating the rubber covering on the play structure stairs and also a spring/pillar that has not been fully assembled. Discussion took place with regard to removing this pillar or installing the structure per manufacturers specifications.

Transportation/field trips: NA

Administrative review: The center had posting with information about mandatory reporter; handbook accessibility; consultant contact, License, fire/tornado emergency plans and non-smoking signs. Four child files were reviewed and there was no file reviewed missing information. Four employee files and no files reviewed were missing required information. This center has a well-establish policy and handbook.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has obtained level 3/5 on IQK4 which is the new quality rating scale.

This center is one of four Lily Pad Centers in the area with the same owner and following the same policies, handbooks and procedures.

This center has a secure entrance.

Enrollment is good at the center and all of the classrooms are being used at this time.

The co-director and on-site supervisor work well together and are organized.

There are staff profiles outside of each classroom.

The center has a strong working relationship with McFarland clinic, whom they share a building.

The administrators promote and work hard to keep a positive culture for staff.

The staff are creative and take pride in their classrooms and in their work.

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. 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.
*changing tables were in need of deep cleaning, surface, mat and under mats. This was a concern in all rooms with a changing table.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every two years. The center last completed radon testing in July of 2022 and all rooms tested fell below the 4.0 level.

The menus reflect the center is following the CACFP guidelines. The center has had the same cook since opening.

Staff were consistently observed to be interacting with the children, maintaining structure of the room and to be responsive to the children.

*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.