Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Hawks Kid Care

Provider No.: 51574

Address: 410 Pine Street, Mondamin, IA, 51557

County: Harrison

Director's Name: Tara Rife

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7123084615

E-Mail: trife@w-harrison.k12.ia.us

HHS Visit Date: 06/11/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/30/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General		18	15	15	48
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Little Hawks Kid Care on 6/11/26. This program is located in the West Harrison Community School in Mondamin, Iowa. The program provides before and after school child care for preschool and school age children. Hours of operation are 6:00 AM to 7:45 AM Monday - Friday and 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Wednesdays are early out days so care is provided 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Full day child care is provided on in service days, school breaks, and during the summer. The center will be opening an additional room for children two years old and older for all day care. Tara Rife is the director. She has an associate's degree of applied science degree/early childhood studies and bachelor's degree in elementary education with a special education endorsement. She has previously been a registered child care provider. Tara is a special education teacher during the day. There are 15 children enrolled. I met with Tara Rife during my visit.

Observation of room:
The programming room looks great. There are a great variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Toys are rotated about every other month but the favorites, such as Legos, magnets, trains, cars, etc. are year-round. The children were in free play when I was there. Tara was attentive to the children's needs. Tara prepares the lesson plans/activities. The gym and the playground are also used. There are restrooms and a sink just outside the room. Please post a handwashing sign near the sink. There is a sink in the room that is strictly for drinking water. Walking field trips are taken to the park, splash pad, and the library. During the school year the librarian comes to the program.

Nutrition:
The school provides breakfast and lunch during the school year and sometimes during the summer. When the school doesn't provide meals, the children bring their own meals. Please make sure the meals are refrigerated. The center provides snacks. Tara follows the CACFP food program guidelines even though they are not on the federal food program. Proper food storage was observed. Please put a thermometer in the freezer and monitor the temperatures in both the refrigerator and freezer.

Health and Safety:
Tara reported medication management procedures are followed when a child is prescribed medication. Please have the parents sign the medication log. Both Tara and the on-site supervisor, Suzette, are medication administration certified. The center has a first aid kit. There is a complete first aid kit in the nurse's office which Tara has access to year-round. The monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. Since you are in a school, the Department of Education is responsible for radon testing compliance and DHHS licensing is no longer required to review radon testing. Tara reported she is properly sanitizing and disinfecting with the three-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing, and 3. Your EPA approved sanitizing and disinfecting product. The center uses Clorox Spray for disinfecting and the school provides the sanitizer; however, Tara didn't know what it was called. It has a three-minute dwell time. Make

sure the product is safe for child care. You can review your product with your child care nurse consultant. Please make sure you know the difference between when to sanitize and when to disinfect. Disinfecting is for diaper changing. Sanitizing is for food surface areas and hard surface toys. The school has fuel burning appliances. The school had a boiler inspection and it expires in 2028.

Playground:
The school playground is used. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing. There is a preschool playground with poured in surfacing. Monthly playground safety inspections are completed.

Administrative records:
Two children's files were reviewed. One was missing emergency contacts and one had their immunization records on the wrong form. Please review all children's files to make sure they have all the necessary paperwork. The children's files were only on Brightwheel. You need to have a hard copy of files in the event of an emergency and the internet is not working. Please make sure to keep all identifying information, emergency contacts, doctor, dentist, and who is allowed to pick up the child in a hard copy file. Tara's file was reviewed and it was complete.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Little Hawks Kid Care is a wonderful resource for the community. Tara Rife is very positive and enthusiastic about the program. Staff had excellent interactions with the children. The center receives donations of toys throughout the year. Tara identified one of their strengths as having a variety of activities for the children throughout the year. The center will be opening a room for two- and three-year-olds at the beginning of the school year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)a-c: All files contain sufficient information to allow the center to contact the parent or emergency contact at any time child is in center's care as well as who can pick up the child as authorized by the parent. Two children's files were reviewed. One was missing emergency contacts and one had their immunization records on the wrong form. Please review all children's files to make sure they have all the necessary paperwork. The children's files were only on Brightwheel. You need to have a hard copy of files in the event of an emergency and the internet is not working. Please make sure to keep all identifying information, emergency contacts, doctor, dentist, and who is allowed to pick up the child in a hard copy file.

109.13(5)a: Sufficient refrigeration appropriate to perishable food is provided. There was no thermometer in the freezer. Please put a thermometer in the freezer and monitor the temperatures in both the refrigerator and freezer.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 8/1/25 to 8/1/27.

Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Tara her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. Tara said if staff are feeling overwhelmed, they are able to call Tara and she will give them a break. Tara has an education in early childhood education and special education. She is able to model for staff how to handle different situations.

A referral was made to Child Care Resource and Referral to help create a licensing binder and organize staff files. A referral was made to the Child Care Nurse Consultant to make sure the sanitizer and disinfectant are acceptable for child care.

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Administrative Change
On 6/11/26, I examined the two new rooms that will be used for preschool and school age children as well as the room that will be used for the two- and three-year-old children. The total capacity will be 37 children. The two- to three-year-old room will have a capacity of 18 children and the preschool and school age room will have a capacity of 19 children.

Date: 06/18/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.