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

Name of Center: Little Raptor Daycare **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50355

Street: 519 E Maple ST **City:** Holstein Iowa **Zip** 51025 **County:** Ida

Mailing Address: PO Box 320 , Holstein, IA, 51025

Director's Name: Nicki Jacobson **Phone Number:** 712-368-4353

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** njacobson@rvraptors.org

Date(s) of Visit: 08-14-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-15-2025

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

Date Inspected: 07-25-2024

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: 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	21	29			50
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Leann Steinhauer **Date:** 08-18-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 08/14/25 I completed an unannounced visit to the Little Raptors Daycare Center in Holstein. I was able to speak with Director Nicki Jacobson. Ms. Jacobson became the director in July 2021. Ms. Jacobson has over 15 years' experience working with children in a childcare center. Little Raptors is housed in the Holstein Elementary School and Center is within the Galva-Holstein Community School. The school built an addition to including a childcare wing. The center operates Monday through Friday from 5:45am to 6pm and serves children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. This childcare wing consists of 3 rooms; an infant to two-year-old room; two-three-year-old room; and PK to 5th grade. The program may also use a commons area for the school agers at times. Capacity of the area is 50. There are 45 children enrolled in the program but 16 present at the time of my visit. Tomorrow there will be a low census as they are having their fire alarms checked as well as their fire inspection.

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

There is nice engagement with staff and the children in their care. They were seen playing with the children on the floor or reading books to them. In the infant room there were 3 staff focused on helping the children fall asleep. This was done through rocking and patting children's backs. All the infants in the room were quiet and appeared comfortable in the care of staff. This suggests that these children have regular contact with an identified staff member, helping the children feel at ease. The infant room has wooden gates to keep children out of the kitchen/office area. The room has a nice flow to it and the separation of younger children from older children is very effective.

Meals are prepared by the Galva-Holstein school as well as snacks. Food is brought down to the infant and toddler rooms and the PK and school agers go to the gym to eat. Food storage practices are good. The center follows the CACFP guidelines for nutrition since the school is currently on the food program. Menus were posted.

This worker observed the 2-3 rooms finishing their meal. They all got up with no prompt and went and washed their hands. This indicates that this is not something new but that it has done so frequently it has become a good habit. They were also very curious with questions which suggest that good social mentoring is occurring.
Family photos are incorporated into the classrooms to support children's comfort and ease the transition from home to school. A wide selection of educational toys and materials were observed, providing opportunities for exploration and learning. Visual aids, including sight words, classroom rules, handwashing reminders, the alphabet, and numbers, were displayed to support early literacy and self-help skills. Staff are bilingual, nurturing, and attentive to cleanliness, which contributes to the diversity and inclusive environment of the center. The center provides a supportive and engaging environment for children using a theme-based curriculum, educational toys, and meaningful visual displays. The inclusion of family photos, children's artwork, and bilingual staff further fosters a sense of belonging, comfort, and cultural diversity.

Medication practices are followed. First aid is sufficient to treat minor injuries. Thermometers were observed in all freezers and refrigerators. Fire/tornado need to be documented monthly.

A Fenced-in playground is adjacent to the childcare wing. Surfacing is grass and rubber square tiles. The playground has a nice big shade structure. There are holes that need to be fixed on the area around the playground area. There is quite a gap between the cement used to make the playground to the grass. A request was made last year for this to be corrected and still not done. These need to be fixed asap. The center does not have any climbing equipment on the playground. Preschool/school agers use the school's playground which also added a new shade structure. They do have access to an area of the school for large motor development or the gym for inclement weather.

They use school bus transportation if needed for the older children.

Staff use Bright Wheel to communicate regularly with parents.

Goals for the center include completing their food assistance application. They would also like to begin the process of IQFK's evaluation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Staff are very engaging with the children in their care.

Their work force is diversified and is committed to providing good care.

Children responded well to staff; it was obvious that there was a bond between them.

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

109.9(2)d: 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.

109.10(13)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents and lost or abducted children.Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for:Evacuation to safely leave the facility.Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation.Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue.Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation.Communication and reunification with parents or other adults responsible for the children, which includes emergency telephone numbers.Continuity of operations.To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children. Please replace gate in the infant room.

109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic. Please fix the large drop off from cement to ground on the black ground area. This fix was also requested last year and not completed.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Director needs to email consultant by 09/30/25 confirming that those aspects that fall below standard have been corrected.

A referral was made to CCRR at the request of the Director to assist with paper worker and administrative duties.
A full license is recommended at this time 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.