

CHILD CARE CENTER COMPLAINT

Name of Center: Little GEM Learning Center - North	Enrollment: 61	License ID: 51891
Street: 4750 42nd ST NE	City: Cedar Rapids	IA Zip Code: 52411
County: Linn		
Mailing Address: 4750 42nd ST NE		
Mailing City: Cedar Rapids	IA Zip Code: 52411	
Director's Name: Emilie Inglebright	Center Phone Number: 319-200-2999	
On-Site Supervisors: Emilie Inglebright	E-Mail Address: ksmeisterling@gmail.com	

Date of Complaint: 09-16-2025**Date of Visit:** 09-17-2025
☐ Scheduled
 ☒ Unannounced
 ☐ NA

☒ Non-Compliance with Regulations Found
 ☐ Compliance with Regulations Found
RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE☒ NO CHANGES to licensing status recommended☐ PROVISIONAL license from _____ to _____☐ SUSPENSION of License☐ REVOCATION of License**Complaint Details:**Did this complaint result in a serious injury? ☐ Yes ☒ NoDid this complaint result in a death to a child? ☐ Yes ☒ No**Summary of Complaint:**

On 9/16/2025, a complainant reported ratio has always been an issue at the center especially lately. The complainant reported in the morning of 9/16/2025, three classrooms were outside with two teachers because they were short staffed. The complainant reported how the three classrooms then all went inside to one classroom for a "breakfast party" with only the two teachers. The complainant reported there were about 20 children age 2yo-5yo with only two teachers.

Licensing Rules Relevant to the Complaint:

109.8(2) Ratio maintained in center as required: Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present. At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting. If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained. Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained. When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present. For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center's hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center. Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded.

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 square 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.

Inspection Findings:

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On 9/17/2025, licensing conducted an unannounced visit to Little Gem Learning Center - North. The following is based upon face-to-face interviews with staff throughout the classrooms, face-to-face interviews with director/on-site supervisor Emilie Inglebright, and observations while on-site:

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COMPLAINT NOT VALID.

- On 9/17/2025, licensing perused all child-staff areas. All programming areas were in ratio.
- Information gathered regarding the previous day's events on 9/16/2025 indicated multiple different-aged classrooms were engaged in outdoor play prior to breakfast. Staff discussed how they were each rotating in and out of ratio taking the 5-minute brief absence to retrieve breakfast foods from the kitchen, for their assigned group of children, before returning to their group. Licensing and management discussed the 5-minute brief absence rule and perceptions related to the program using it in the manner described. Management agreed to change their breakfast routines so that effective 9/18/2025, upon arrival for their shift, each staff would obtain all non-perishable breakfast food items from the kitchen before heading to their assigned classroom. Management reported one staff would take the 5-minute brief absence to deliver any perishable breakfast foods such as milk to each and every classroom needing these. Management agreed one staff would be capable of doing this for all classrooms in the 5-minute time allotted for a brief absence.

While present on-site, the following rule violation was noted.

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 square 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.

- On 9/17/2025 licensing perused and photographed the outdoor play areas as previously done on 8/15/2025. On 9/17/2025, weed-thistle-grass control measures were improved. However, the conditions of the outdoor play areas continue to need much attention. There continues to be a lack of any cushion surfacing underneath some outdoor equipment, a very minimal cushion surfacing depth under remaining outdoor equipment, rusty swing chains, and sanitation hazards related to a partially covered sand-sensory play area that also included some small rocks. Remedy. Discussions as to solutions include getting one fenced-in section of the outdoor play area fully compliant while resolving issues on the other outdoor play areas, removing damaged and/or not developmentally appropriate climbing equipment, removing equipment where cushion surfacing is too difficult to obtain and/or maintain, removing open sensory areas of sand with small rocks and so on.

Special Notes and Action Required:

To help with the repeated outdoor rule violations noted in this complaint report, please apply for the "Growing Iowa" fund designed to support childcare in Iowa by connecting with CCR&R (<https://iowaccrr.org/staff/>; Region 5 Director Becky White at 563-484-4587).

Licensing additionally requests you speak with your legal and insurance persons as to the conditions of your outdoor play area.

Consultant's Signature:

Amy Lyons

Date:

09-24-2025