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

Name of Center: Little Pirates Preschool **Enrollment:** 25 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 22900

Street: 136 S Washington ST **City:** Hudson Iowa **Zip** 50643 **County:** Black Hawk

Mailing Address: PO Box 734, Hudson, IA, 50643

Director's Name: Tera Gunnarson **Phone Number:** 701-680-1574

On-Site Supervisor(s): Tera Gunnarson **E-Mail:** littlepiratespreschool@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-19-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 01-10-2023

Comments : Compliance on 04/04/23

LICENSE TYPE: **Child Care** X **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	24	0	24
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 02-01-2023 to 02-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-29-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/19/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Little Pirates Preschool in Hudson. I met with Tera Gunnarson, the director and lead teacher. She was previously employed as an assistant in the program since August 2021 and was named the director in July 2022. Ms. Gunnarson has a BA in elementary education and several years of experience in teaching. Deb Brandhorst and Darlene Taylor are the assistants in the program. Ms. Brandhorst works four days each week and Ms. Taylor works three days each week. Ms. Brandhorst has been employed since October 2022 and Ms. Taylor started in October 2023.

The preschool is in Hudson Elementary. The preschool operates Monday through Friday from 8:15-11:15 am. The program serves children who are three through five-years-old. Children can attend three, four or five days each week. There are currently 25 children enrolled.

The preschool operates out of one classroom. Windows provide natural lighting. The room is decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes and numbers. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, woodworking, puppets, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, listening, sensory table and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they were easily accessible to the children. The room is decorated for the theme.

There is a sink located in the classroom and handwashing procedures were posted. The program has use of a bathroom across the hall from them with one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to create lesson plans. Alphatales are one of the resources used for letters. The activities are planned around weekly or bi-weekly themes. There is an Epson projector in the classroom.

The program partners with Central Rivers AEA to provide hearing screenings and the Lion's Club to provide vision screenings to the children.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in the classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program door. A daily schedule was posted and a lesson plan was available for review.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. The program only uses a grassy area on the days they go outside for gross motor activities. Playground inspections are not necessary. A radon test was completed in January 2023 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed by the school

and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located near the entrance. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 01/10/23, with compliance on 04/04/23.

This year the program started having the parents provide a snack to their own children. The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The teachers check the snack each day to make sure it follows CACFP guidelines. The program can supplement if necessary. Snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. No dishwashing is required, as disposable products are used. There is a refrigerator in the room and a thermometer was present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the classroom. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance of the school.

Staff members were amazing. They bring enthusiasm to the class and this makes the children excited to be in the class. The children start the class by working on a letter worksheet. They used play to teach the children about colors and sorting. They had fun activities for the children. The day of my visit some of the second grade students came to read to the children. The children then did music and movement to get them up and active. Children were allowed to share stories and each child was included in circle time. Positive redirection was used when necessary and staff members provided the children with praise.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Gunnarson states the four-year-old children can ride the bus to school in the morning if they have a sibling. The three and four-year-old children can ride the bus after class if they are going to a certified childcare.

The second grade students can visit the preschool room on Friday to read to the children.

Ms. Gunnarson states they have a good schedule for the children. The timing of the large group and small group are a good amount of time and it also allows time for children to enjoy centers.

Ms. Gunnarson states the communication with parents is good. They send home daily sheets each day documenting what they did, who they played with and how their day went.

Ms. Gunnarson states they started having children bring their own snacks each day and they are eating more.

Ms. Gunnarson states they have a lot of one-on-one individualized activities for the children.

The program has great sanitizing and cleaning practices.

The program offers a variety of centers and the children do not get bored. The room is designed around the theme.

The preschool has a Facebook page.

The program can use the school gym and track for gross motor activities.

Staff members have a lot of enthusiasm and provide a fun and exciting learning environment. Their enthusiasm was contagious.

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

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff and children files were not reviewed because this was an off-year visit. Handbooks were not reviewed during the visit.

*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.