Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Sprouts Student Center

Provider No.: 52264

Address: 206 W Main ST, New Hampton, IA, 50659

County: Chickasaw

Director's Name: Amy Ameling & Presley Kohlmeyer

On-Site Supervisor: Destiny Hard

Phone Number: 6413945840

E-Mail: lscc.director.nh@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/18/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 07/28/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	0	25	25	50
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/18/26 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Little Sprouts Student Center in New Hampton. I met with Presley Kohlmeyer, one of the directors. Ms. Kohlmeyer has been employed by Little Sprouts since August 2017. She has been the director of this site since it opened in August 2023. Ms. Kohlmeyer has completed NAC training and has her CDA. Destiny Hard is the on-site supervisor. Ms. Hard has been employed with Little Sprouts since September 2021. She is a lead teacher in the classroom and Ms. Kohlmeyer's assistant in the office. She has been the on-site supervisor for this site since it opened in August 2023. Ms. Hard has her CDA. I also met with Amy Ameling, also a director. Ms. Ameling is also the director of Little Sprouts Children's Center. Ms. Ameling started with the Little Sprouts program as the director in August 2020. She has a BA in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. She has a minor in speech and theater secondary education. She has previous childcare experience. Ms. Ameling is NAC certified. This site employs eight staff members.

The program operates in New Hampton Elementary School. They were given permission to open on 08/23/23. It operates Monday through Friday from 6:00 am until 5:30 pm. They serve children aged three through nine-years-old. There are currently 49 children enrolled.

The center operates out of two rooms. The Honeybees cares for children aged three through five-years-old. The Fireflies care for children aged five through nine-years-old. An inspection of each room was completed. Artificial lighting is used in both rooms. The rooms are decorated with pictures of the children and their families, the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted.

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The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, transportation, art, dramatic play, math and magnets. 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 are easily accessible to the children.

The program has three bathrooms that are in the Honeybees room. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink and handwashing procedures were posted. There is an additional bathroom in the office area that has one toilet, one urinal and two sinks. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. There is also a sink in the Honeybees classroom and handwashing procedures are posted.

The program uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review during my visit. The center uses the ProCare app to communicate with parents.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the program's address and phone number in each classroom. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by the main program doors in both rooms. The rooms communicate with the office using a two-way radio. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in July 2026 and is good for five years. The tests results were within EPA guidelines. A fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site in both rooms. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 07/28/26.

The program does participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), but only for snacks. The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Snacks are provided by the center. Dishes from both rooms are washed in the Honey Bee room using the three step method. The parents purchase breakfast and lunch through the school. Both classes eat in their classrooms. Breakfast and lunch are brought to the classrooms on a cart in disposable trays. The school provides the center with a breakfast and lunch menu. The center makes a new snack menu each month. Menus were posted and were available for review.

The school provides breakfast and lunch during the summer months also.

There is a refrigerator in each classroom and thermometers were present. There is also a refrigerator in the storage room near the office and a thermometer was present. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program uses bleach to sanitize the food tables. The program uses Odoban as a disinfectant in the center.

Mats are used to nap. They are sanitized daily.

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

The program uses the school playground and they can use the gym. Woodchips are used on the playground. The younger children can use the "red playground" and the "red swings". This playground has a smaller piece of climbing equipment that has slides, a bridge, a climbing wall, and other activities. There is also a stationary car. There is a large tarp over this area for shade. There is a picnic table for the children to rest.

The older children can use the "blue playground", the "purple swings" and they can also use the red playground used by the younger children. The blue playground has a larger piece of climbing equipment with a zip line, rings, slides, and monkey bars. The building provides shade depending on the time of day. There is a picnic table for the children to rest.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Kohlmeyer and Ms. Hard have been with this program since they opened. They are a great administrative team and they provide stability to the program. The day of the visit, Ms. Kohlmeyer was in a room because Ms. Hard is on maternity leave. Ms. Ameling was covering the office. The staff members in the classrooms had great interaction with the children.

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They had a good routine and maintained positive conversation with the children. They were patient and provided positive redirection when necessary. They took the children outside to enjoy the nice weather. While they walk outside the younger children are required to hold the hand of a partner. I observed staff members counting children as they left the room. On the playground staff members moved around the space to provide active supervision.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states the center has a good partnership with the school.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states staffing is going well.

Ms. Ameling states they have four staff members using the TEACH program and one staff member using the WAGES program. There are three staff members on the waiting list for WAGES.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states having the childcare program in the school eliminates the need for parents to worry about transportation.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 06/30/27.

The program is in a secure building and there are cameras in the room. The childcare center has its own entrance.

The program uses Pro Care to communicate with parents.

The hallway is decorated with the children's art projects.

Ms. Kohlmeyer has her National Administrator Credential (NAC) and her CDA. Ms. Hard has her CDA.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

There are no violations.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. All HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Kohlmeyer her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Kohlmeyer states they have some staff members who also work for the school system so they receive training from the school. She states she tries to keep the high school staff members out of dealing with children who have behaviors and she has more experienced staff members deal with it. Ms. Kohlmeyer states Ms. Ameling does orientation with all new staff members and this is addressed.

Ms. Ameling states staff members take on-line trainings, including Essentials and Passport. She has face to face orientation at the beginning of a staff member's employment and they discuss discipline. Ms. Ameling states staff members are told they only put their hands on children to provide "care services" or "positive touches". Ms. Ameling has said that staff members who need a break are told to call administration for help and someone will step into the classroom so they can take a break.

Ms. Kohlmeyer states she can hear the classrooms from the office and she will step in if necessary. She can also review cameras that are in the rooms. Staff members have walkie talkies to call for help.

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Date: 08/26/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.