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

Name of Center: Little Pirates Preschool **Enrollment:** 26 **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:** 319-230-8405

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

Date(s) of Visit: 01-09-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-09-2022

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

Date Inspected: 01-10-2023

Comments :

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:** 01-23-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/09/23 I made an unannounced 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 Alyssa Norman are the assistants in the program. Ms. Brandhorst works Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Ms. Norman works Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Both have been employed since October 2022.

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 26 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.

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. 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 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. There was no documentation for fire or tornado drills being completed for January through May 2022. Ms. Gunnarson was not the teacher at that time.

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 last completed in December 2020 and is good for two years. Results were within EPA

guidelines. They are conducting another radon test in January 2023. The fuel burning inspection was completed 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.

The preschool program purchases and provides a snack to the children. The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the guidelines. The teachers choose the daily snack and they are documented on a calendar. Most snacks are stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There was some cereal that was not stored correctly. Once a food item is opened it must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container and be dated. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. 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 and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. There were two missing physicals and one outdated physical.

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member needs to send their background information into Des Moines to receive permission to work in childcare. One staff member did not have a physical.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present; however, the access policy must address sex offenders. A sample has been provided to the director. The program must provide unlimited access to the parents. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed. You must identify an evacuation location out of town.

Staff members were observed to have great interaction with the children. They provided the children with praise and taught with enthusiasm. Staff members had good teamwork with one another. Ms. Gunnarson included all the children in a science experiment they conducted the day of the visit. Ms. Gunnarson used repetition to teach the children. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. One sat on the floor with the children to help them write their names. Positive redirection was used when necessary. Ms. Gunnarson was expressive while reading to the children. The staff members were patient. The children appeared to have fun and feel comfortable in the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

Ms. Gunnarson states they have good communication with the parents. She sends a weekly email to the parents and they have conferences in the fall and spring.

Ms. Gunnarson states they have daily sheets they send home to the children. The parents sign the forms and send them back to keep them involved.

Ms. Gunnarson states they have a lot of positive energy in the classroom and there is great teamwork among the staff members.

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

The preschool also has a Facebook page.

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

The classroom utilizes Seesaw in the classroom as a learning tool.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination

Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff member did not have a physical.

109.10(1)a: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
Number not in compliance: 3
There were two missing physicals and one outdated physical.

109.10(15)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.
There was no documentation for fire or tornado drills being completed for January through May 2022. Ms. Gunnarson was not the teacher at that time.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

*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.