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

Name of Center: La Petite Academy - Des Moines **Enrollment:** 119 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 6987

Street: 5708 SW 9th ST **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50315 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5708 SW 9th ST, Des Moines, IA, 50315

Director's Name: Jenny Snyder **Phone Number:** 515-285-6975

On-Site Supervisor(s): Paula Baber **E-Mail:** 7264@lapetite.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-15-2024

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:** 01-10-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-03-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 X Other 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	6	6	58	30	100
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 02-20-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced licensing visit was completed 2-15-24. The director and assistant director were present throughout the visit.

This is one of the two La Petite centers in the metro area. They are owned by the Learning Care group, a for profit company based in Michigan that owns child care centers nationwide. Jenny Snyder has been the director at this site since 1991. The center has sole-occupancy of the building. Paula Baber is the assistant director/on-site supervisor, she has worked at the center for 36 years. They both meet the requirements for their positions.

This center is open from 6:00 am-6:00 pm. They serve children 18 months old up to 12 years old.

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. The playground was completely snow covered.

Room observations/activities: The center uses curriculum from the Learning Care group education department. The Learning Care group has it's own curriculum and staff can pull from this curriculum for lesson plans and themes and ideas, staff can even call the education department for ideas on not only curriculum, but for behavior guidance as well. The Learning care group also has what is called My Path, which is online help for staff for ideas and help. Assessments for children at this center start when they are two years old. The application 'sprout-about' is used to communicate with parents. The center has a variety of age/developmentally appropriate play centers and toys. The building is divided by ages; and each area is nicely arranged. Staff are in ratio. The children were observed to be content and to readily access staff, who provided nurturing responses. Staff maintained good structure in the center.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen and the assistant director/director are currently doing the meal preparation. The center is enrolled in the food program and menus are in line with CACFP guidelines. The director is an avid participate in CACFP. Meals/snacks are served family style. Menus are crafted by the director and rotated. The kitchen area is small and the space available is used well. Storage and refrigeration was clean and orderly.

Health and Safety: Medications are secured in the office and the director/assistant director administer. Handwashing signs are posted. There are first aid kits in each classroom. Tornado/Fire emergency plans are posted. Drills are documented as completed monthly as required. Radon was tested 6-12-23 and all results below 4.0. HVAC is professionally inspected at least annually. There is a carbon monoxide detector on site.

Playground: The playground is located at the back of the center; enclosed by chain link fencing. There is natural shade and play structures. Safety surfacing is wood chips. The playground did have some snow and was observed in good repair. Playground safety checks were complete.

Transportation/field trips: This center provides before/after school transportation to/from some schools in the area. The

center leases fleet 14-passenger vans. Maintenance is completed by the lease holder.

Administrative Review: Information about mandatory reporting; handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans were posted; the non-smoking sign would need reposted as the director had just cleaned the door window. This center has an established policy.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center has very little staff turnover, and most of the staff have worked together at this center for a number of years. They view child care as a career and not just a job. They are proud of the work they do and feel respected by the children and the parents. The staff work well together.

There are six lead teachers at this center and two of them have been at this center for twenty years. The assistant director has been with the center for 35+ years and the director has been with the center for 35+ years.

The director feels the center is established in the community and has a good reputation.

The center has good communication with the parents and has a parent email as well as sending out monthly newsletters.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance.

The center has maintained strong enrollment.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain statement signed by staff indicating whether they have a criminal conviction or founded child/dependent adult abuse.
Number not in compliance: 1

Employee-Substitute-volunteer statements are required; one employee did not have one on file.

109.9(1)b: All files contain:A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information.Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 3
National (FBI/fingerprints) criminal history checks are required every four years; the results of those checks are required in employee files.
SING or Iowa Child abuse/Dependent adult abuse checks are required every two year; the results are required in employee files.

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: 2
Physical exams are required within the 6-months PRIOR to hire and then every three years.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child’s school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 3
Three child files were in need of updated physicals or health statements.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center participates in the CACFP (food program) and their menu's reflect they are following the CACFP guidelines.

Radon testing is required every five years The center conducted radon testing 6/12/23 and all results fell below 4.0.

The boiler is inspected annually.

The director will obtain updated SING results and request copies of FBI results and/or repeat as necessary.

A new two-year full license is recommended.

*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.