Health and Human Services

# Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

## CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Tigers Learning Center, LLC

Provider No.: 49985

Address: 1720 Nile Kinnick DR S, Adel, IA, 50003

County: Dallas

Director's Name: Anika Blum and Angela Thrailkill

On-Site Supervisor: Emily Moen, Emaleigh Barber, Amanda Wills

Phone Number: 5159931038

E-Mail: anika@littletigersadel.com director@littletigerslearning.com

HHS Visit Date: 07/08/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2026 to 08/01/2028

**Fire Inspection:**

Date Inspected: 06/07/2024

Comments: State Fire Marshal inspections are due every three years. The center will be due for another inspection in 6/2027.

**Report Visit Type:**

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

**License Type:**

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

**Quality initiative:**

- [ ] Accrediation

**Program Duration:**

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

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

**Program Population Served:**

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Aged | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 33 | 19 | 71 | 20 | 143 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**1. Basic Overview**

A licensing inspection was conducted on 7/8/26. On-site supervisor, Amanda Wills, was present throughout the inspection. The director, Angela Thrailkill, arrived towards the end of the inspection.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Little Tigers Learning Center is a center in Adel, IA that was given permission to open on 6/4/18. The center serves children six weeks in age through 12 years in age using the learning curriculum, Frog Street. There are total of eight classrooms. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 110 children.

Anika Blum is the owner and also a director of this center. Anika also owns Little Tiger centers in Gilbert. Anika has a BA degree and has past experience working in respite and residential care. Angela Thrailkill is the main director of this center. The on-site supervisors are Emily Moen, Emaleigh Barber, and Amanda Wills.

NUTRITION: The center serves breakfast, lunch, and PM snack to children. All meal items, food storage, etc. met CACFP requirements. The center has a full kitchen and employs a full time cook. Children eat meals in their classrooms. Family-style dining is practiced.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center owns three company vans that are shared between the two programs in Adel and Gilbert. For bigger field trips, the center will contract with the school district for a bus and bus driver. Regular

maintenance is performed on the vehicles. For all transportation needs, a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts are taken along.

PLAYGROUND: The center has two playgrounds based on ages of children. There are climbing structures. Mulch is used for surfacing on the older children's playground and field turf is used on the younger children's playground. There are shade structures as well as the building that provide shade. Both playgrounds are fenced in. Monthly playground checks are being conducted.

During the inspection, children were observed outside on the playground for water day, having sunscreen applied, being held, washing hands, sitting down to eat lunch, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up for them in classrooms. Toys, cots, cribs, etc. are being cleaned and sanitized daily. Diapering procedures were discussed. Children and staff questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

For more difficult child behaviors, the center preaches and practices good communication and teamwork between staff. Staff are taught when to know to ask for assistance. Management is willing to help when needed in classrooms and are usually walking around and spending time in classrooms throughout the days.

**2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program**

All staff wear center sponsored shirts and/or center badges.

The center was very clean and nicely decorated. There was good lighting throughout the building.

There is a secure entrance. The center is using the Pro-Care system for staff and parents to sign in and out of the center, daily sheets, forms, etc. There is also a security surveillance system in place.

There is a maternity room for breast feeding mothers (staff).

Monthly staff meetings are held.

There is again a good mix of experienced and new staff. The director stated she felt her staff continued to work well with each other and were a solid team. The owner has previously stated this as well.

The day to day director is organized.

Infants have individualized lesson plans.

Alarms are installed on playground gates.

The center uses walkie talkies when in different parts of the building and/or outside for better communication.

There is a staff lounge for breaks. Staff are also eligible for certain benefits.

There are two professional development days where the center closes so that staff can get training hours in for the year.

The center has a full-time cook.

**3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard**

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa’s training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the

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Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
ONE STAFF MEMBER HAS THESE THINGS COMPLETED NOW, BUT THEY WERE PAST THE 90 DAYS FOR GETTING ESSENTIALS AND MANDATORY REPORTER COMPLETED.

109.9(2)i: 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, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
One child was missing a current physical.

109.10(13)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.
In 2025, October and November fire drills were not documented. In 2025, October and December tornado drills were not documented. It was noted that all drills in 2026 to date were documented.

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 spear 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 the playground, one tricycle was missing a peddle. There was also one area of the playground were the black undercover tarp was exposed creating a potential tripping hazard.

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

The below standards identified should be corrected as soon as possible.

**5. Special Notes/Recommendations**

Radon testing was last conducted 5/27/22 - 5/31/22. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

It was previously noted that the carbon monoxide detectors are built in.

The last annual HVAC inspection on file was from 6/6/25 and is again scheduled for 7/2026. The HVAC company used by the center had to reschedule this inspection from a previous date. The air conditioning was serviced on 6/29/26 and on 7/2/26.

IQ4K and I - Power were discussed at the visit. It appears most staff have I - Power profiles and are updating their professional development training hours.

On the younger children playground side, a few nails appeared to look like they needed to be nailed back down.

It was noted that one child immunization record needs to be transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form. This form will then also need to be signed/dated to be valid.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was sent in electronically on 7/8/26.

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Date: 07/09/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.