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

Name of Center: Little Endeavors **Enrollment:** 87 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28320

Street: 205 SE Oralabor RD **City:** Ankeny Iowa **Zip** 50021 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 205 SE Oralabor RD, Ankeny, IA, 50021

Director's Name: Kellee Baker **Phone Number:** 515-963-0500

On-Site Supervisor(s): Shamari Little and Melinda Gomez (pending) **E-Mail:** kellee@littleendeavors.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-08-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-26-2023

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

Date Inspected: 03-25-2024

Comments : Ankeny Fire Marshal.

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	32	24	118	32	206
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 04-08-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 4/8/24. The director was present throughout the entire visit and the general manager of Little Endeavors was present for the majority of the visit.

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.

Little Endeavors in Ankeny opened for business in the Fall of 2001. Ownership changed in 2015. Todd Figley and Eric Kohlsdorf are the owners of this center and the other two Little Endeavors programs located in Grimes and Waukee. Ashley Kunz is the general manager of all three programs. The director of this center as of 7/2023 is Kellee Baker. Kellee has past experience working in child care which also includes being a director. Shamari Little is the on-site supervisor and meets qualifications. Melinda Gomez is a pending on-site supervisor.

Little Endeavors offers care for infants (six weeks) up to age 12. Hours of operation are 6:30 am-6:00 pm. The center use their own learning curriculum with children that is based off of other learning curriculums. There are a total of 13 classrooms, although not all of the classrooms are in use at this time.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities ranging from napping in cribs, washing hands, being held, engaged in free-choice play at different learning stations set up on classrooms, going outside to play on the playground, and engaged in a large-group story activity being facilitated by staff.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center is beginning the process of IQ4K which is a voluntary program based off of best practice.

The center has a good mix of tenured (some close to or over 20 years) and newer staff.

Staff are professional and work well together as a team. The teachers are prideful of their classrooms and take ownership of their rooms.

There is good communication between staff and management.

There is good communication between staff and parents. The center uses Pro-Care for daily sheets and communication to parents. Monthly newsletters are also provided to parents .

The center has a website and a Facebook page.

The center has a secure entrance.

The administration team shows their appreciation for staff. Staff are eligible for incentives. The administration team work well together, they are a strong team.

The center employs a full-time cook.

All three Little Endeavor directors meet monthly or more frequently if needed to review policies, procedures, etc.

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

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: 1. Minor staff (16 and 17 year old) also need to be fingerprinted.

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.
May and June 2023 fire and tornado drills were not documented. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR. IT WAS NOTED THE CURRENT DIRECTOR DID NOT START UNTIL 7/2023.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities.
1. On the playground, there is a carpet piece that is a potential tripping hazard by the door that should be removed. There are some bolts along the fence and gates that need to be cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. Finally, several tricycles need to have handlebar covers.
2. In one of the Pre-K classrooms, a door is needed for the girls restroom.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
May and June 2023 monthly playground checks were not documented. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR. IT WAS NOTED THE CURRENT DIRECTOR DID NOT START UNTIL 7/2023.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
An older lesson plan was posted in one of the 18mo - 2 year old classrooms.

109.15(4)a: Written policies developed for food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school and is provided to parent at admission. Food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school is monitored and supplemented if necessary to ensure CACFP guidelines maintained.
Oat milk is not considered a credible substitute for cows milk (one percent or skim for children two and older) that a parent brings into the center for their child.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last completed in 2/2022. 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.

The last furnace inspection was completed in 8/2023. The center should keep all invoices on file.

The carbon monoxide detector fell off a wall and broke on Friday, 4/5/24. The director planned to purchase a new one today, 4/8/24.

Brightwheel and Playground were discussed during the visit.

I-Power and IQ4K were discussed at the visit. All staff will need to be linked to this center. Several staff need to upload training. The center director has started looking into IQ4K and the plan is to participate in this program in the future.

The CACFP food app was discussed and shared at the visit. This can also be shared with parents.

An updated monthly playground form was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

The cribs next to diaper changing tables should be moved/stored at least three feet away from the diapering tables. No children were currently using these cribs, but they should still be kept at least three feet away from the diapering tables.

The center needs to have copies of court orders for any foster care children as well as any protective orders where parents can't have unlimited access to their children.

All child files pulled at radon had signed/dated immunization records. There was one observed for a different child that did not. To be valid, all immunizations need to be signed and dated.

It is recommended the annual child update forms be consolidated into one form as discussed at 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.