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

Name of Center: Little Dutch Academy **Enrollment:** 155 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52567

Street: 1050 E University ST **City:** Pella Iowa **Zip** 50219 **County:** Marion

Mailing Address: 210 E University ST, Pella, IA, 50219

Director's Name: Sarah Kuennen **Phone Number:** 641-628-1944

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** sarah.kuennen@pellaschools.org

Date(s) of Visit: 03-18-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-10-2024

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

Date Inspected: 04-12-2024

Comments : conducted by DIA, due every three years

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **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: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			165		165
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2024 to 09-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 03-20-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Little Dutch Academy is a new program (2024) serving preschool age children. It is administered in a public school on the edge of Pella. The program Director is Sarah Kuennen. She is typically present throughout the day. Director Kuennen also serves as the Preschool Principal. She possesses a BA in Elementary Education an MSE in Teacher Effectiveness and PD and a PK-12 Principal endorsement. Three and four year old preschool children are served in this program. The Director is always present during the program day. Kristiana Hesseltine is the administrative assistant in the building and assists the Director. As On Site Supervisor should be appointed to a program this size. This was also recommended last year.

A Permission To Open visit was conducted in August 2024. All program areas were observed on an unannounced licensing visit on 10/23/24. The visits consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Center Nutrition:

The program does not participate in Iowa Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Food was stored appropriately and refrigerator/freezer units contained thermometers. Waste containers were covered. Menus for all meals were not present. Children with food allergies should have allergy action plans and diet modification forms on file. Staff must be able to access the plans in the rooms so they can reference the plans in the event of an emergency.

Center Health and Safety:

The center's radon test was completed in 2024 and results are below 4 pci/L. Updated testing is due every five years. The fuel burning appliances inspection were not available the date of the visit but are now (11/4/24). They are due annually. Carbon monoxide detectors are present. First aid kits should be labeled, fully stocked an in each room. Cabinetry they are kept in should be labeled. The building was constructed after 1978 so a lead based paint assessment is not required. Ventilation and lighting are adequate.

The building has a secure entry.

The center has access to a full size gymnasium. Each child has at least 75 square feet each for gross motor play. Each classroom provides at least 35 square feet per child. This ensures capacity is met. The program meets restroom requirements of 1:15.

The Director accessed IDPH regarding sanitizing/disinfecting and safe products in the summer and has information on the products they are currently utilizing.

Ratio was in compliance the date of the visit. However, HHS recommends staff breaking children down into manageable supervision groups. There are many blind spots in the gross motor area. Children should be observed by sight at all times.

The program is using a new cleaner now (Forces of Nature).

Center Outdoor Play Area:

The center has access to multiple outdoor spaces immediately connected to the building. The areas contain age appropriate climbing equipment with adequate surfacing and fencing. The Child Care Weather Watch is consulted if outdoor play is questionable due to varying weather conditions. A first aid kit and emergency contacts and emergency medication are taken outdoors with the children. Outdoor play inspections have been completed monthly.

Center Administration:

The center has a full handbook containing all required policies as are mandatory postings.

Age appropriate curriculum and lesson plans are present and utilized daily.

Child files are reviewed annually by HHS. A Child Care Nurse Consultant can complete child record reviews annually upon request. Child files include dental and medical provider information, emergency contacts, pick up authorizations, an updated physical (annually), immunization records and field trip authorizations. Some child physicals are outdated.

Staff files are reviewed annually including SING checks (2 years) and fingerprints (4 years), CPR/1st Aid training (2 years), Mandatory Reporter Training (3 years), staff physicals (3 years), and professional development training. If staff are under 18 years of age they always work with an adult staff.

Incident reports should be completed and given to parents the date of the incident.

An emergency preparedness plan is present. Staff have been trained annually on the plan and sign and date acknowledgement of such. New workers should be trained on the plan as they are hired.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The program is in a new building with all new equipment.

The program meets a need in the community.

The Director and staff are friendly and helpful.

Violations are quickly corrected.

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

1. 109.6(2): Director or on-site supervisor on-site during the hours of operation or a minimum of six hours of center's hours of operation. Information on on-site supervisor's qualifications is submitted to the consultant prior to employment and is sufficient to make a determination. On-site supervisor meets qualifications or is "qualifiable" with a plan established to meet qualifications.

Every center (including multiple sites under the jurisdiction of one business, school, etc.) must have an on-site supervisor. The on-site supervisor is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the center.

Among other duties, the on-site supervisor is directly responsible for:
? The daily operation of the center and supervision of direct-care staff.
? Ensuring children are accounted for and proper record keeping is maintained.
? Scheduling activities and transportation needs.
? Ensuring information regarding exposure to communicable disease is posted immediately upon notification.
? Ensuring parents are immediately notified of emergency or other serious incidents.
? Ensuring information is communicated to parents at the end of the day etc.
These functions may be performed either in a dual role by the director, if the director remains on site, or by another person who meets the qualifications for an on-site supervisor.
Notify the child care consultant before hiring an on-site supervisor or assigning supervisory duties, both when opening a new center and when making a change in supervisors. Submit to the child care consultant sufficient information to determine whether the person meets the education, experience, and training requirements for a supervisor.

An on-site supervisor must be present at the center a minimum of six hours or the hours of the operation of the center. This

allows for a figure of authority to be present during the majority of the day. Occasionally the on-site supervisor may be temporarily absent from the center due to illness, vacation, attendance at staff development training, etc.

2. 109.6(6)d: Center repeats national criminal history checks at a minimum of every four years or when aware of additional history that occurs. Staff may not begin work until fingerprints are either sent in the mail or ran by an approved entity.

3. 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, Chiropractor 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: 5

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center is aware they may access Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman or CCNC Tammy Merrill and Child Care Resource & Referral Consultant Brenda O'Holloran on a consistent basis. They have been proactive in reaching out to HHS and CCR&R and IDPH. This is duly noted.

Consultant O'Holloran has had 11 on site visits this past year with numerous emails and other forms of technical assistance.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants

CCNC Tammy Merrill provided consultation to the program in summer months regarding cleaners. CCNC Merrill stated, "I told her that I thought the J-512 was ok for sanitizing. I have been to Little Dutch Academy several times. Mandi and I both completed Medication Administration Test out's on the employee's who are going to be dispensing medications. I have Done a Chart Health Record Check up for them. I have toured all the rooms and playground. I have consulted with them on what cleaning and sanitizing products are appropriate. I scheduled a Health and Safety check with them but I had to cancel due to my schedule and it is going to be difficult to reschedule that at this time. They were only doing it because I needed to do one with Heidi Hotvedt as a fidelity visit. The director is the same for Little Dutch Club. I have not physically been to their site but have had discussions regarding this facility with Sarah. I've had several TA's since the regarding illness and sanitizer but I has not visited them in 2025."

*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.