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

Name of Center: Little Bulldog Child Care **Enrollment:** 66 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19204

Street: 704 S Page St **City:** Monona Iowa **Zip** 52159 **County:** Clayton

Mailing Address: PO Box 163, Monona, IA, 52159

Director's Name: Ashley Lograsso **Phone Number:** 563-539-4966

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amy Kruse **E-Mail:** littlebulldog@mflmm.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 06-10-2024

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:** 05-31-2024

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

Date Inspected: 10-14-2021

Comments :

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: 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	12	12	15	28	67
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2024 to 07-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 06-25-2024

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 06/10/24 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Bulldog Childcare Center in Monona. I met with Ashley Lograsso, the director. She started in April 2021 and became the director in June 2022. Ms. Lograsso completed classes to earn her CDA and is currently taking classes to get her AA in early childhood. She is NAC certified. She had a non-registered home for four years and has business experience. Amy Kruse is the on-site supervisor. She has a BS in secondary education in special education with a reading and math endorsement. She has been with the center for thirteen years. She was hired in April 2021. The center employs 16 staff members.

Little Bulldog Childcare Center opened in Monona on 07/16/07. It is in MFL MarMac school but has its own wing. The childcare center is a non-profit organization. The childcare center was built as an addition to the school. The center provides childcare and a three-year-old preschool program. The childcare center serves children birth through school age and operates Monday through Friday 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. The center is licensed for 67 children and currently has 66 children enrolled. The Head Start program is also located in a classroom within the childcare center and is licensed separately. The program partners with Keystone AEA to provide services for children with identified needs.

The center operates out of the following rooms: infant room, toddler room (18 months through two-years-old), a preschool room (three through five-years-old) and a school-age room. An inspection of each room was completed. The rooms were in ratio during my visit. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects. The preschool room is decorated with posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, shapes, colors and numbers. The children's birthdays were posted. There is an area for circle time.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, dramatic play, listening, writing, math, science/discovery, 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.

A variety of resources are used to create lesson plans. The preschool and the school age teachers use the Creative Curriculum to develop lesson plans. The toddlers use the Creative Curriculum and a variety of other resources. Activities are based on weekly themes. Each teacher is responsible for developing their own lesson plans. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

The center uses ProCare to complete daily sheets for the children under two years old. They also use it to communicate with all the families. They send pictures of the children throughout the day and the parents have enjoyed using the app.

There was a phone with emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits. A daily schedule was posted for each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in June 2023 and is good for two years. The results were within EPA guidelines. The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and located in the entrance near the Head Start classroom. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/14/21.

The program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The center provides the children with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. Meals are made on-site. Coleen Martins is the cook. Meals are served in the classroom and dishes are returned to the kitchen to be put through the industrial dishwasher. There are also three sinks in the kitchen to use the three-step method if necessary. They use a four-week rotation of menus. The food services director for the school makes the menus for the childcare center. There is a refrigerator, upright freezer and a chest freezer in the kitchen and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

During the summer months the childcare prepares everything on the menus. During the school year the school cafeteria will make the casseroles or bigger items and provide it to the center.

The center offers infants one brand of formula or parents can bring what they prefer. The center provides baby food and cereal. Bottles are sent to the kitchen to be put through the dishwasher.

The center uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the eating tables. Enviro Solutions ES15 Spray and Wipe Disinfectant is used to disinfect the changing tables. It has a two minute dwell time.

I observed diaper changes and proper procedures are followed. Handwashing procedures were posted near all the sinks and diaper changing procedures were posted near all the changing tables as required.

Cribs are used in the infant room and cots are used to nap for the older children.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. 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.

There is a fenced in outdoor play area adjacent to the center for infant, toddler and preschoolers. This area is also used by the Head Start children. Rubber tiles are installed in this area for surface cushioning and trees provide shade. There are also woodchips. There is climbing equipment with small slides. There is a playhouse, rocking bee and a rocking ladybug. There is also a sandbox, playhouse and a picnic table. The rubber tiles in this area are starting to curl, but the program has a plan to repair them.

There is a second area in the back of the program for preschool children. Rubber tiles are used for surface cushioning. There are swings and climbing equipment, including slides, games and a bicycle merry-go-round. There is a small grassy area. There is limited shade in this area.

The school-age children use the school playground and there is also an open grassy area that can be used. There is climbing equipment in two locations. They have slides, rings, a bridge, and bars. There is also an area with six swings. In these two locations woodchips are used for surface cushioning. Woodchips must be routinely raked to fill areas below the swings and slide. Trees provide shade.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed ten children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not provide any dental emergency contact information. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. Eight files had outdated physicals. Please be aware that immunization certificates must be on the Department of Health immunization certificate for them to be valid.

I reviewed two staff files. One file had an outdated universal precautions training.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

Staff members had fantastic interaction with the children and great teamwork. Child friendly music was playing in the classrooms. Rooms were decorated with several pictures of the children. Staff members offered the children choices for activities and songs. Staff members were singing and dancing with the children. Staff members were nurturing and they held the children on their laps. They comforted them when they were upset. Staff members were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. Staff members were on the floor with the children and actively engaged with the children in activities.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Lograsso states they created an educational coach and coordinator position that they share with the Dr. Smitch Center. They want both centers to receive quality care and they want to be more of an educational center. Josie Roulson, the educational coach and coordinator, shares her experience and education with the staff members. She has her teaching license and is working toward her master's degree. She meets with staff members monthly to discuss struggles and provides ideas. Staff members have been open to the support.

Ms. Lograsso states she is taking classes to get her AA in childhood using the TEACH program. She currently has her CDA.

Ms. Lograsso states there is another staff member who is also using the TEACH program. They also recently hired a staff member with a diploma in early childhood.

Ms. Lograsso states they are working on improving the infant room to include more centers and activities.

Ms. Lograsso states the center is in the process of applying for an IQ4K level 3.

Ms. Lograsso is very organized and appears to have good relationships with the staff members.

The center is in a secured building and there are cameras in the rooms.

The center offers sign-on bonuses for new staff members.

The hallway is decorated with pictures of the children and their art projects.

The center offers a great summer program for school-age children with several activities and field trips.

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

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: 8
There are eight outdated physicals.

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.