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

Name of Center: Little Island Child Care-Latchkey **Enrollment:** 29 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 18181

Street: 311 5th St N **City:** Fairbank Iowa **Zip** 50629 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: PO Box 38, Fairbank, IA, 50629

Director's Name: Janece Silva **Phone Number:** 319-635-2391

On-Site Supervisor(s): Janece Silva **E-Mail:** littleisland9@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 01-17-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 11-16-2023

Comments : Compliance on 12/11/23

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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			10	30	40
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: Becky Frost **Date:** 01-23-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 01/17/25 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to Little Island Child Care-Latchkey program in Fairbank. I met with Janece Silva, the director. Ms. Silva has worked with the program for fourteen years and has been the director since July 2015. The program typically has two staff members present during the morning hours of operation and two staff members present during the afternoon hours of operation.

Little Island Child Care-Latchkey is a non-profit program which operates under a board of directors and is owned by the Fairbank community. The Fairbank community owns and operates two separate licensed programs. In addition to this program, they also own Little Island Child Care Center in Fairbank. At times the two programs interact together.

Little Island Child Care-Latchkey is in Wapsie Valley Elementary School in Fairbank. The program operates all year-round from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. During the school year the children are present 6:00-8:00 am in the morning and 3:15-6:00 pm during the afternoon hours of operation. The program also operates all day during no-school days, weather closures and the summer. They will walk over to the childcare center when they are down to two children. The Latchkey program serves preschool through school-aged children. There are currently 29 children enrolled.

The program primarily operates out of the school gym/cafeteria. This is an open space that allows for free play and organized activities. Artificial lighting is used. They also use the outside playground area. The centers observed include arts and crafts, library, blocks/Legos, games, table toys, puzzles, math, Play-Doh, dramatic play, transportation and magnets. Centers are stored in a closet inside of the gym/cafeteria.

I visited the program during the morning session. The number of children at the program at any one time is changing constantly because of children arriving and leaving. They were in ratio during my visit.

The children use two bathrooms outside the gym/cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has four toilets and the boy's bathroom has two toilets and two urinals. There are two birdbath sinks outside of the bathrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted. There are additional bathrooms located in the school.

The program has use of staff cell phones and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were posted by the main program door and outside exit in the gym/cafeteria. A daily schedule could not be located the day of my visit. Ms. Silva stated she would get one posted.

During the summer months of operation, the program runs a curriculum with themes and activities. During the school year the children arrive and eat snack. They then have time for homework or reading for twenty minutes and then they engage in free play.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. A radon test was completed in January 2024 and must be repeated in two years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The

school is completely geothermal so a fuel burning inspection and carbon monoxide detector are not necessary. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 11/16/23, with a compliance date of 12/11/23.

The program is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The children are offered breakfast through the school, but parents can send breakfast items with their children to the program. The program does offer breakfast if there is a two-hour delay for the school. Little Island Child Care-Latchkey offers an afternoon snack during the school year. During the summer and on "no school" days the program provides breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. The childcare center provides all the food and food items are delivered to the program. The childcare cook makes a new menu each week. For lunch the children eat off plates that are returned to the center to be put through the dishwasher. Otherwise, they use disposable products. There is a refrigerator on site and thermometers were present. Allergies were posted. Not all food items on hand were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were cereals that were not properly stored. Once a food item is opened in must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container and be dated. This was cited in last year's report also.

The program uses Sani Date Hard Surface Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables. The product has a one-minute dwell time.

The parent information is located on the entrance door and the storage closet door inside the gym/cafeteria. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously posted. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

Ms. Silva was the only staff member the day of my visit. The children were great at entertaining themselves. They have several centers to choose from in the program, but the children mostly enjoyed playing with balls and running around the gym. Ms. Silva used positive redirection when necessary. Parents and children were greeted when they arrived.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Silva states they receive a lot of support from the school. The school goes above and beyond for them and they are not charged any rent. They understand the program benefits the school too.

Ms. Silva states the program has consistent staff members.

The program is convenient and meets a need to provide care for preschool and school-aged children. The program is in the school and does not require any transportation.

Ms. Silva states the program is open every day; even when there is no school and during bad weather days. The program is also open during the summer.

The program participates in field trips during the summer and they use a school bus for transportation.

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

109.15(5): Food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with NHSPS.
Not all food items on hand were stored according to NHSPS guidelines. There were cereals that were not properly stored. Once a food item is opened in must be stored in a sealed plastic, metal or glass container and be dated. This was cited in last year's report also.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued for the remainder of the licensing period. 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.