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

Name of Center: Little Husky Childcare Preschool **Enrollment:** 94 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 19258

Street: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F **City:** Oelwein Iowa **Zip** 50662 **County:** Fayette

Mailing Address: 317 8th Ave SE Ste F, Oelwein, IA, 50662

Director's Name: Marisa Van Note **Phone Number:** 319-283-2302

On-Site Supervisor(s): Marisa Van Note **E-Mail:** mvannote@oelwein.k12.ia.us

Date(s) of Visit: 09-19-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-29-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-24-2023

Comments : Compliance on 05/25/23

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care X 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	43	27	49	50	169
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2023 to 08-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 10-03-2023

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 09/19/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Husky Childcare and Preschool in Oelwein. I met with Marisa Van Note, the director. Ms. Van Note has an AAS in early childhood and was previously the preschool teacher. She has completed the NAC course. Ms. Van Note started with the program in October 2016. She became the director in July 2020. Ashley Schwartz is in charge when Ms. Van Note is not present. There are 17 staff members employed by the center.

The licensing visit for this center is typically conducted in July. There was a delay in making the visit because the building where they are located had a water main break that flooded the building in early July. They had to immediately evacuate and pack up as many items as they could to save them from the flood.

The center operates out of the same building as Oelwein Elementary and the NEICAC Head Start Program. The program operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 am until 6:00 pm. The three-year-old preschool program operates during the school year and parents have the option of having their children attend on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 am. The voluntary four-year-old preschool program is regulated under the Department of Education. The childcare center serves infants through school-aged children. There are currently 94 children enrolled.

The childcare center operates out of the following classrooms: Sprouts (birth until they walk), Pea Wees (approximately 12-24 months old), Climbers (two-year-olds), Travelers (three through five-year-olds), Kinder Bus Kids (three-year-old preschool class and Kindergarten and first grade school-aged children before and after school) and Husky Care (older school-aged children). An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting for all the rooms except for the two school-age rooms. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects and child friendly posters. The children's birthdays were posted. There are areas 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, play dough, woodworking, 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. In the Traveler's room you must secure the electrical cord for the radio near the sink so children do not have access to it.

The program currently uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans. There is a resource shelf for parents inside the entrance. The center partners with Keystone AEA to provide services to children with identified needs.

There was a phone with emergency numbers in each of the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits in each classroom. A daily schedule was posted in each room, except for the two school-age rooms, Kinderbus and Husky Care rooms. The school moved the Husky Care room to a new classroom in the school. Lesson plans were available for review. Parents are provided monthly newsletters. There are cameras in each room so that the director can monitor the rooms for safety, staff interaction, and compliance with licensing standards. The cameras are currently not working and the center is looking into purchasing new

ones.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. Each room practices and documents their own 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. Results were within EPA guidelines. The building is geothermal and does not require a fuel burning inspection or carbon monoxide detector. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 04/24/23, with compliance on 05/25/23.

The center is using the Playground app to complete daily sheets for the children under the age two and to communicate with all the families.

In the infant room there was a child who was swaddled in a sleep sack. Sleep sacks are allowed, but you must remove the piece that swaddles the child. A child cannot be swaddled in the crib. Also, in the infant room there was a boppy pillow. I informed staff members that boppy pillows can only be used for nursing mothers and they are not allowed to prop children up with them. If they do not have nursing mothers, I advised the staff members to remove them.

The center participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack. There is a four-week rotation for the snack menu and a new breakfast and lunch menu is made each month. All food is prepared on site by the Oelwein school district cook. The children are served their meals and snack by the teachers in the classroom. If there are too many school-aged children for the table in the classroom they will eat in the cafeteria. If they eat in the cafeteria the children go through a line cafeteria style and the kitchen staff put food on their tray. Staff members eat with the children to model appropriate behavior and assist as necessary. The dishwasher is currently broken so the program is using disposable products.

The center provides one brand of formula, but most parents bring their own. The center provides baby food and cereal. The bottles are cleaned in the room and sent to the kitchen to be sanitized. Some parents take the bottles home each night. There is a refrigerator in the Sprouts rooms. Thermometers were present.

The center uses bleach and water to sanitize the food tables and to disinfect the changing tables. Label the bleach and water bottles in the Husky Care room.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board in 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.

The school and Head Start partnered to develop a new playground. The playground is used by preschool and school-aged children. It is a large fenced in area with several choices for the children. They use a synthetic turf specifically made for playgrounds with a cushioning material. There is a concreate path and real grass for the children also. There are several pieces of climbing equipment that include activities like slides, climbing walls and still rings. There are different types of swings and steppingstones for balance. There is an obstacle course. There is a playhouse with a tunnel and a play doctor office and fire department area. They have a basketball hoop, music center and there are several games painted directly into the turf, such as tic tac toe, hopscotch, four square and a bullseye.

On the north side of the childcare center a new playground has been developed for the younger children. It also uses turf for fall surfacing. There is no climbing equipment. There are pushing toys, riding toys and multiple playhouses. There are artificial hills and tunnels for the children. There is a dramatic play center and woodworking center. There is a storage container with several activities, including balls, transportation. Etc.

Staff and children files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed 15 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. Six files did not provide adequate dental emergency contact information, three files did not provide adequate medical emergency contact information and four files did not identify a hospital. There were three outdated physicals and three missing physicals.

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member had an outdated physical. There were two outdated SING background checks, but this has been corrected. One staff member had an outdated universal precautions training and an outdated mandatory reporter 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 were observed to have positive interaction with the children. Staff members were patient and flexible with their schedules. They used positive redirection when necessary and used PBIS techniques. Staff members offered the children choices. They interacted with the children at their level and were actively playing with them. Child friendly music was playing in several rooms. I observed children sitting on the staff members' laps. Staff members were nurturing and

attentive. The children appeared to be comfortable in program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

All the staff members have been required to take PBIS training in the past. This was reflected in my observation in how they interacted with children in the classrooms. Ms. Van Note is going to take a "train the trainer" course so she can continue to train new staff members on PBIS techniques.

The center is using the Playground app to complete daily sheets and to communicate with families.

Ms. Van Note states the center is flexible and tries to be accommodating to families and staff members.

Ms. Van Note states they provide a personal environment where they know every child who attends the center.

Ms. Van Note states that the staff members are friendly. She talks with the staff about greeting parents so they know they are important and that their children are well cared for.

Ms. Van Note states they are the only childcare center in the community and they have a good reputation. When families leave, they report nice things about the center.

The program is in a secured building and they are going to purchase new cameras for the center.

Ms. Van Note states they plan to apply for an IQ4K level.

Ms. Van Note has completed NAC training.

The program provides conferences to the parents in March and October.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1
One staff member had an outdated physical.

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 3
Number not in compliance for dental: 6
Information lacking: 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. Six files did not provide adequate dental emergency contact information, three files did not provide adequate medical emergency contact information and four files did not identify a hospital.

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: 6
There were three outdated physicals and three missing physicals.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to change the capacity of the center. They are adding two rooms within the school for school-age children. The capacity is broken down as follows:

Sprouts (infants)-16 children
Peawees (12-24 months-no cribs)-27 children
Climbers (2 year olds)-27 children
Travelers (3-5 year olds)-27 children
Preschool (3 year olds)-22 children
School-age (3 rooms)-50 children
TOTAL: 169 children

As mentioned earlier in the report, there was a delay in getting the licensing visit because a water main broke and flooded the building. The report was delayed so I could update the capacity of the building accurately.

*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.