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

Name of Center: Lake Town Charlie Brown **Enrollment:** 112 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 16105

Street: 7B South 8th St **City:** Clear Lake Iowa **Zip** 50428 **County:** Cerro Gordo

Mailing Address: 7B S 8th St, Clear Lake, IA, 50428

Director's Name: Laura Lester **Phone Number:** 641-357-7277

On-Site Supervisor(s): Ariel Gleason **E-Mail:** lakecb@charliebrownpreschools.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-09-2023

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 **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

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

Date Inspected: 06-01-2020

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

X 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	41	23	65	42	171
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 10-13-2023

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

NA

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Lake Town Charlie Brown Preschool and Childcare Center on 10-09-23 where I met with the assistant director, Ariel Gleason as the on-site director Laura Lester was not in on the day of the visit. Laura is well qualified with extensive experience and education in early childhood care and education. This program is located in a free standing building in Clear Lake. The center is one of several centers under the general oversight of the Charlie Brown centers and is overseen by a board of directors, and executive director. The center provides daycare and preschool programming to infants through school age children. There are 112 children enrolled in the center served by 15 staff members. All aspects of the program subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remains the same as in prior visits. The center has several classrooms with each determined by age. Each room was observed to be clean with only minor issues related to maintenance that did not rise to the level of being an immediate safety concern. Each classroom has windows and/or doors that provide direct egress to the outdoors with the exception of the preschool age room which is located in a central interior area but which does have skylights that allow natural light. Each room has access to bathroom facilities directly from the room with the exception of the school age room which uses the restrooms in the preschool area. Several of the rooms have direct secondary exits to the outdoors, and the others have pass through doors that allow access to those room with the direct exits. One issue that was noted was the school age room which has a commercial store front entry door that makes use of a locking latch system which does not have a handle or other system that would automatically disengage the lock when opening the door. This lock was engaged at the time of the visit with children present in the room. This has been identified in prior reports with the recommendation to have the lock disengaged when children are present. Each room is divided into activity centers through the placement of furnishings, shelving, and play structures which in general are arranged such that there are no blind areas. The layout of the school age room is such that medium height shelving/cubbie units have been arranged to define a "coat room" area which creates a blind area. Options for reconfiguring the area or staff placement have been discussed with Laura in prior visits. A similar arrangement is used in the preschool area to separate the main programming space from the restrooms.

Each activity center was well supplied with toys and materials that were observed to be in good repair and generally appropriate to the ages of the children present. It was noted that some figures and toys in the school age room included toys that were manufactured as promotional items for food vendors which need to be removed. Each classroom had a copy of the daily schedule but not all classrooms had a copy of the planned curriculum posted. Despite not having a copy of the curriculum posted it was obvious that each classroom had one and were implementing it. This was exemplified in classrooms where teachers were presenting formal activities such as teacher lead group review of specific number and letter concepts, reading books or doing music & movement activities with the children, and craft activities. In other classrooms the teachers were talking to the children about their play, and playing with them as they engaged in self-directed play activities. Ratio was maintained in each classroom as required by age with at least two teachers present. One issue that was noted was with the school age room which would send children to use the restroom located in the interior space used by the preschool age children. While this is an area that is still in the center and there would generally be staff for the preschool classes in the area there are time such during this visit where the room was empty and children were unsupervised. It was reviewed that staff should accompany children, or at least stand by the classroom door to ensure that children are supervised

when going to the restroom. The center uses a variety of positive behavior management approaches such as Red/Green Choices, and Tucker Turtle programs. Staff were observed to recognize positive behaviors of children, reminders of expected behavior, redirection, and guided problem solving.

Good health and safety policies and practices were observed during the visit. During the visit I was able to observe diaper changes in some classrooms, and review procedures in others. Staff were able to either identify, or demonstrate proper procedures. One issue that was noted is that the changing mat in the older infant room was observed to have served it's useful life. Ariel stated that a new mat had been ordered and delivery was expected at any time. Staff did wash the children's hands following diaper changes and at other times as needed such as after blowing their nose. Medications are stored in the center office in a locked container and only specific trained employees dispense medications with the exception of emergency medications which are kept in classrooms in identified storage containers. Medication administration documentation was present and current for each child with a prescribed medication. Over the counter medications such as diaper creams are stored in the classrooms and were labeled with the name of the individual to whom it belonged. Medications, chemical cleaners, purses, and other items which could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to the children. Good Safe Sleep practices were observed during the visit. Two issues were observed which should be monitored. One was a crib that had loose hardware which needed to be tightened. The other issue was with regard to crib sheets where a couple were observed to be pulling slightly at the corners of the crib mattresses. While laundering can cause the weave to tighten if staff are able to push the mattress down to loosen the weave and allow the mattress to lay flat that bedding can continue to be used. If it will not relax and continues to cause the corners or edges to be pulled up the bedding needs to be replaced.

The center does have full kitchen facilities and meals are prepared on-site. Good food storage, preparation, and service practices were observed in the kitchen. The kitchen was observed to be clean with no evidence of insect or rodent infestation noted. There is also a pantry storage area which had a freezer unit which did have an accumulation of debris including what appeared to be some spilled dry goods, and a canned item that had rolled under the unit. Again while there was no evidence of infestation with either live or dead bugs, rodens, or droppings this does need to be cleaned to remove any food sources that could support insects or rodents. Good food handling practices were observed with staff wearing food service gloves, and using measured scoops when serving meals. Meals are served in the classrooms and staff do sit with the children providing supervision at the table. A copy of the menu was posted and identified a good variety of nutritious meal options.

The center playground is fully enclosed, and further divided into three areas by chain link fencing with toddler, preschool, and school age areas. The school age area is screened by large mature evergreens and the trees have been trimmed back on one side of the entry to improve line of sight and reduce the risk of children hiding. The school age area has a large climbing structure which appeared to be in good repair but it was noted that the spiral slide and connecting platform do have a lot of movement. There was no observed loose hardware, cracking of either metal or plastic structures, or other indications of damage but the center should continue to monitor this element as the movement could result in material fatigue that may require repair. The unit also has a straight slide element where some of the connecting hardware was beginning to loosen and again while not resulting in any issues for structural integrity does need to be tightened. The center has replaced the climbing structure in the preschool area and the equipment was in good repair. Covered loose fill fall surfacing is used in the toddler area, wood chips in the school age area, and rubber mulch in the preschool area. A sufficient depth of material was generally present in all areas but the rubber mulch has been displaced in high traffic areas such as the discharge of slides and needs to be raked back into the fall zones of the preschool area. Mature trees, and constructed gazebo structures provide shade. Storage sheds are present and contain other equipment and materials such as tricycles for the children to play with. In addition to the playground areas there is a small wooden porch just off the older infant room where the infants can also go outside to play. The center did replace the damaged wooden decking planks with a composite material.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices were posted in an area readily accessible to parents and visitors. All required inspection logs and certificates were current and available. The center does maintain a self-audit system to identify those files that have expired or missing information of both child and staff files. A random selection of both were reviewed and compared to the self-audits which were found to be accurate. The review and self-audit found that 1 staff file did not have documentation of staff having completed the Essentials of Child Care trainings within the first 90 days of employment as required. In reviewing the children's files the self-audit identified 7 that needed an updated physical. Those files that were missing elements were generally documentation that had only recently expired and are within acceptable limits.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center has completed renovations with the replacement of the damaged decking of the infant play space.

The center is currently participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations. The center is rated as a Level 2 program out of a possible 5 Level scale and is working to increase that rating to a Level 3.

The center is planning to have all staff complete the Positive Behavioral Intervention Support training to ensure a consistent approach to behavior management.

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

109.7(1): All staff(within first 3 months of employment)Two hours of approved training FOR the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions and infectious disease control.Certification in American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health institute or MEDIC First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) OR equivalent certification approved by the department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross,American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the department.A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
-- Number not in compliance: 1

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: 7

109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing.Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM.Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children.Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children.Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap.Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs.Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
-- Loose hardware on cribs needs to be tightened. Changing pads/mats that have tears/cracks in the nonporous cover need to be replaced. Displaced fall surfacing needs to be raked back into place or supplemented. Toys marked as being produced as promotional items for food vendors need to be removed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

*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.