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

Name of Center: Little Endeavor Grimes **Enrollment:** 40 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50996

Street: 441 SE Gateway Dr **City:** Grimes Iowa **Zip** 50111 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 441 SE Gateway Dr, Grimes, IA, 50111

Director's Name: McKenna Mattheis **Phone Number:** 515-986-0920

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** mckenna@littleendeavors.com

Date(s) of Visit: 05-20-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 05-07-2024

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

Date Inspected: 06-03-2024

Comments : Johnston-Grimes Fire Marshal. Inspections are due at least every three years per licensing regulations. Johnston - Grimes typically do inspections every other year.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit 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	21	17	65	52	155
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: Nate Knepper **Date:** 05-21-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year inspection visit was conducted on 5/20/25. The director was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Little Endeavors Grimes (formerly known as First Steps Child Care Center Grimes) was purchased by Eric Kohlsdorf and Todd Figley in 1/2020. Eric and Todd also own the Little Endeavors programs in Waukee, IA and Ankeny, IA. The General Manager of all three programs is Kellee Baker. Kellee has past experience being a director at another program. The director at this center, officially as of 11/2022 is McKenna Mattheis. McKenna was previously the on-site supervisor. McKenna has a lot of experience working in child care and this center. McKenna has also taken a number of professional development training courses.

The center serves children six weeks in age to roughly 12 years in age. One side of the building has enclosed classrooms and then one open area for four/five year old children. On the other side, the room is all open and used by school-age children. Capacity of the infant classroom is 10 children. Capacity of the one year old classroom is 11 children. Capacity of the two year old classroom is 17 children. Capacity of the three year old classroom is 18 children. Capacity of the four/five year old area is 47 children. Capacity of the school-age area is 52 children. The center uses their own learning curriculum that is based off of several other curriculums.

During the visit, no infant children or school-age children were present. All other children in classrooms were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms. One child was observed doing a fine motor/letter activity with staff. Children gave specific answers as to when they wash their hands and where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The owners of this program also own Little Endeavors in Waukee and Little Endeavors in Ankeny. There is continuity.

The director has past experience working in child care, including as an on-site supervisor.

The center was clean and nicely decorated.

Monthly all-staff meetings are held.

The center uses the Pro-Care online app.

The center has a secure entrance.

Good staff - child interactions and conversations were observed and overheard during the visit in all classrooms.

Employees are eligible for benefits (insurance, vacation, sick leave, health insurance, etc.).

The center has a break room for staff.

There is a lot of storage space.

The center has a full-time cook.

The site is a pick up and drop off location for school-age children.

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

109.9(1)b: All files contain: A signed copy of DHS criminal history record check or any other permission form approved by the Department of public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history check. A copy of Request for Child Abuse Information. Copies of the results of Iowa records checks conducted. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any Department-issued documents sent to the center related to records check.
Number not in compliance: 1 new staff member has not yet been fingerprinted. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

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: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: All children enrolled, regardless of age, need to have listed a doctor and a dentist. The information required include the names, addresses, and phone numbers.

109.9(2)c: All files contain information regarding the specific health and medical needs of a child including information regarding any prescribed treatment.
For school-age programs in the child's school, all files include a statement signed by the parent that the immunization information is available in the school file.
Number not in compliance: 1 child was missing a current physical. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
Two children needed to have Food Allergy Action plans for their epipens.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
There were a few bolts underneath the big climbing structure that need to be capped so that no more than two threads are showing.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents.
The AM, PM, and Full-Day schedules were not posted for school-age children.

109.12(4): Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.
1. Children's bedding should not be touching each other while being stored. This was an issue in a couple of classrooms.
2. Staff purses should be kept in areas that are inaccessible to children.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
In the kitchen, the bottom and shelves of one refrigerator need to be cleaned.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is due every five years so long as radon levels in classrooms are below 4.0. RADON TESTING IS PAST DUE BUT SCHEDULED FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.
Radon testing was last conducted 4/17/20 - 4/19/20 and all levels were below 4.0. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The last annual furnace inspection on file was from 4/2025, but the center is awaiting the invoice.

For field trips, the center takes a company van. Children five and older (so long as going into Kindergarten) are eligible for off site field trips. The center will also bring in different agencies for presentations to children. The van was observed. Regular maintenance is performed on the van.

IQ4K and I - Power were again discussed at the visit. Staff will need to upload their professional development training in I - Power. The center has looked into IQ4K and is interested in starting this process in the near future.

It is again recommended that if there is enough room, dividers be put up between toilets for the three, four, and five year old children restrooms.

The center should remove all Boppy Pillows from the infant classroom.

It is recommended that emergency medication (epipens, inhalers) not be locked up.

The current and previous year's fire/tornado drill documentation and monthly playground inspection form should be kept on file.

It was noted that one child's immunization records need to be transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form.

One new staff needs a physical, but the code will change as of July 1, 2025 which allows for this to be obtained within six months after hire.

The center's current license certificate and a Food Allergy Action Plan was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

An administrative change is being made to the center license. With the major renovations that took place last year, capacity of the center is 155 children.

A CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN IS REQUIRED BASED ON THE BELOW STANDARDS IDENTIFIED AT THIS YEAR'S INSPECTION VISIT. THIS IS DUE 10 DAYS AFTER THE CENTER RECEIVES THIS REPORT.

*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.