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

Name of Center: Little Feet Learning Center, LLC **Enrollment:** 37 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51602

Street: 521 4th St **City:** Rockwell City Iowa **Zip** 50579 **County:** Calhoun

Mailing Address: 521 4th ST, Rockwell City, IA, 50579

Director's Name: Rebecca Thompson (owner/director) **Phone Number:** 712-297-5621

On-Site Supervisor(s): **E-Mail:** littlefeetlearningcenterllc@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-21-2025

X **Licensing Visit** X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** **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: 09-10-2024

Comments :

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	9		13	29	51
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 07-30-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Little Feet Learning Center in Rockwell City on 07-21-25 where I met with the center owner and director Rebecca Thompson. Rebecca is well qualified for the position based on her experience, education, and on-going training. Rebecca does have an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education, and is also a Registered Nurse. The program opened in 2021 and is operated as a privately owned for profit program. The program is located in a free standing building that has two separated spaces with one half being leased to another business. That space does have a separate entrance so that individuals making use of that business do not have contact with the daycare. The space is owned by Rebecca and could provide the opportunity to expand in the future if needed. The center provides full range child care services to infants through school age children. There are currently 42 children enrolled in the program served by 10 staff. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout and design of the building remains the same as in prior visits but there have been some changes to individual classroom arrangements. The daycare makes use of the front half of the building and is divided into three rooms by age groups of infants, preschool, and school age. Each room has multiple exits including direct access to the outdoors. All exits were clear of obstruction and opened easily and freely. Restrooms are available directly from the classroom spaces for the preschool and school age children. Changing stations are also available in the preschool and infant areas. Windows along the exterior walls provide light, ventilation, and view of the outdoors. Each room was observed to be clean with no immediate safety issues related to maintenance. The infant room did add a mobile fence and gate system to separate the main programming space from a small feeding area. The panel divider of the school age room had moved to define a small space that is currently used for storage but which the center plans to make into an office work area for Rebecca so that the space where she has her current office can be used to expand programming for older infants. Activity centers are created in each room through the placement of furniture and play structures which were arranged so as not to create any blind areas.

A copy of the daily schedules and curriculum were posted in each classroom and identified weekly focus themes with examples in the preschool room of Pollinators, Berries, and 5 Senses. Good interactions were observed in each room during the time of my visit with all staff being actively engaged with the children. This included implementing the planned curriculum or attending to the children's direct care needs. Examples included the preschool room where the class moved from engaging in a large group teacher lead activity, or individual choice center play. In the infant room the teachers attended to basic care needs of feeding and changing children, as well as focusing on developmental skills of assisting a child with emerging walking skills. Good behavior management techniques were used during the visit with the teachers using positive engagement approaches of reminders of expected behavior, praise, and redirection. Ratio was maintained in the center as required by age.

Good health and safety policies were observed during the visit. I was able to observe a diaper change and the staff did follow the required procedures. Good hand washing practices were observed with the staff washing their hands, and the children's hands as required and ensuring that the children did so in an effective manner. Good practices were observed when using chemical cleaners with the staff following the label directions, and waiting for children to be out of the area when using chemical cleaners. Chemical cleaners, purses, diaper bags, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not readily accessible to the children. First aid kits have materials necessary

to address most common first aid needs. Emergency contact numbers were posted by phones in classrooms. Safe sleep practices were followed for all infants under 1 year of age.

The center does have a kitchen and meals are prepared on site. Good food storage, preparation, handling, and service practices were observed. Meals were pre-portioned by staff and served to the children. Staff did wear food service gloves when portioning and handling food. The children ate in the classrooms and while the staff did not eat with the children supervision was provided to the children while they ate. Staff did modify foods for younger children by cutting them into smaller bite size pieces to prevent choking. The meals served were consistent with the planned menu which does provide a good variety of credible meal options.

The center does have a playground space with a commercial grade climbing structure, paved basketball court, and grassy area. The equipment was observed to be in good repair. Additional dramatic play structures, riding toys, balls, and other play items are available. Shade is provided by large mature trees from a neighboring property that overhang part of the playground. The playground is fully enclosed by fencing which was observed to be in good repair. Rubber mulch is used for fall surfacing beneath climbing structures and a good depth of material was present.

In reviewing administrative records all required notices for No Smoking, Consultant Contact, Mandatory Abuse Reporting, and Certificate of License were posted in an area that was readily accessible to all parents and visitors. Emergency evacuation notices that include both diagram and written instructions for fire and severe weather were not present by the secondary exit for the infant room, and the diapering procedures posting was not present at the preschool changing station as required. The center does maintain a self-audit for both staff and child files and randomly selected files for both children and staff were compared to the self-audits which were found to be accurate. The self-audit identified that 6 child files needed an updated physical that had just expired within the past month and did have notation of scheduled appointments for those children. The self-audit for the staff files identified 6 that needed renewed training certification of mandatory abuse reporting, and 3 that needed a renewed physical. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required elements. Radon testing was noted to have a reading just over the allowable cutoff limit and the center was following the guidance of the testing facility to conduct a long term exposure re-test to ensure an accurate reading.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Rebecca identified that the center is starting the process of becoming certified in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations.

Rebecca identified that she has strong staff with several that have been with the center for several years. Rebecca stated that all of her staff are supportive of each other and have very strong relationships with the children. Rebecca did note that Sandra Macaraeg who is the on-site supervisor when Rebecca cannot be at the center did just complete her Center Director Associate degree.

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

109.4(2): Postings are required for:The certificate of license.Notice of exposure to communicable disease.Notice of decision to deny, suspend, or revoke center license or reduce to provisional status.Mandatory reporting requirements.Notice of availability of the handbook.Name and contact information of the HHS licensing consultant.Program activities and menus.All postings shall be conspicuously placed at the main entrance of the center.
-- The required postings for emergency evacuation of fire and tornado was not present by all exits from all programming spaces. Diapering procedures postings were not present by all changing stations. The consultant contact notice was present but an updated version with the correct e-mail address is needed.

109.9(1)b: 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: 3

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
-- Number not in compliance: 6

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.