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

Name of Center: Newton Early Learning Academy **Enrollment:** 38 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 49974

Street: 2713 N 4th AVE E **City:** Newton Iowa **Zip** 50208 **County:** Jasper

Mailing Address: PO Box 111, Reasoner, IA, 50232

Director's Name: Melissa Strand **Phone Number:** 641-787-2002

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

Date(s) of Visit: 09-26-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-05-2024

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

Date Inspected: 03-22-2024

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	20	17	27	25	89
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2024 to 10-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Melinda Larson, Child Care Licensing Consultant **Date:** 10-01-2024

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Newton Early Learning Academy opened in November 2018. The center is located in a single standing building. The center has security cameras in classrooms and the entryway. The center serves children ages infancy through school age. The owners of the center are Paloma and Jeffrey Keith. Melissa Strand is the director.

An unannounced visit was completed on today's date. All areas subject to HHS licensing rules were reviewed. Mandatory postings are in place at the center's entrance. Schedules and lesson plans are posted in the classrooms.

Linda Hammer assisted with today's visit. Melissa Strand assisted via phone. The infant class had three infants present. One staff was working in the infant classroom. There were two toddlers in the 1's classroom. There was one staff working in this room. The 2's room had five children present. One staff was working in this room. The preschool room had ten children in attendance. One staff was working in this classroom. Children were observed in classrooms. Children were observed during child directed play, during rest time and during lunch.

The center has a full kitchen. The center serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Lunch served today was chicken, sweet potatoes, peaches and milk. Menus are made on a monthly basis. Menus reviewed showed compliance with CACFP requirements.

The center has a playground that has fencing. There is grass and concrete in the outdoor play area. The center has completed monthly playground checks. The center is also able to use the Head Start playground.

The center doesn't provide transportation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The current director worked at the daycare prior to being promoted to director. The director has worked with the center's CCR&R consultant. The center participates in IQ4K and has a one star rating.

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.

REPEAT VIOLATION
The center didn't complete state and federal record checks prior to allowing a new staff to start working at the center.
The center didn't follow HHS protocol regarding an individual who has a transgression on their record check.

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.
There were several children's files with outdated physicals.

109.12(5)b: Infants diapered in a sanitary manner as needed in central diapering area. Diapering, sanitation, and handwashing procedures posted and implemented in central diapering area.
The staff working in the one's classroom wasn't cleaning and sanitizing the diaper changing station in between diaper changes on the day of the visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The center has a full license at this time.

The center needs to complete and follow a Corrective Action Plan due to the continued state and federal record check violations. If there continues to be violations, the center's license status will be evaluated.

Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact me (phone 515-362-7823; email mlarson@dhs.state.ia.us) so that we may discuss the issue. If necessary, I can make a notation in your record. You may also send a letter that will be included in your licensing file noting any disagreement you may have with this report. If you have the need for any additional information discussed during my visit, please contact me and I will forward the information to you. Thank you.

*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.

*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.

VI. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: The director completed a Corrective Action Plan which was approved- on 10/14/24. The plan has been uploaded. The CAP includes steps that will be taken to ensure new staff will not start without required criminal checks being completed.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 10/18/2024 3:23:13 PM