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

Name of Center: Little Irish Preschool & After School **Enrollment:** 11 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 48414

Street: 1903 S Broadway **City:** Emmetsburg Iowa **Zip** 50536 **County:** Palo Alto

Mailing Address: 1903 S Broadway, Emmetsburg, IA, 50536

Director's Name: Jean Hyslop (Principal) **Phone Number:** 712-852-3464

On-Site Supervisor(s): Megan Geelan - lead teacher **E-Mail:** jhyslop@e-irish.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-08-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **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: 12-19-2022

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

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			20		20
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Raymond Salsbury **Date:** 02-26-2024

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 Little Irish Preschool & After School program on 02-08-24. Jean Hyslop is the school principal and program director, and Megan Geelan is the preschool lead teacher. Both are well qualified for the positions they hold. Jean has a Masters degree and 20+ years experience in early childhood education, and has been with the program since its inception in 2017. Megan also has a degree in education and took over the lead teacher position at the start of the 2021-22 school year. The school is currently providing 3 year old preschool programming. All aspects subject to licensing standards were reviewed during the visit.

The layout, design, and operation of the classrooms used for programming space remains the same as in prior visits. The preschool program is located in a single classroom of the Emmetsburg Catholic School building. The preschool room has a long narrow design but is arranged to divide the space into activity centers that provide space for the children to play without creating any blind areas. High windows provide natural light but no ventilation or view. A secondary emergency exit is located at the rear of the room and exits through a storage space. There is a sink in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. Bathrooms are located outside the room across the hallway. Children are escorted and supervised when using the restroom. The classroom was observed to be clean with no immediate safety concerns noted due to maintenance or design. A daily schedule and copy of the planned curriculum was posted.

The identified curriculum on the day of my visit had a general focus theme of Health with a specific learning concept of the letter "H" and the "Heart". This was reflected in the materials and activities that were present books, craft activities, and materials in activity centers. The program continues to have a very strong focus on learning and helping the children develop school readiness skills. The program uses positive behavior management techniques with redirecting, and recognizing positive behaviors of the children. Megan was also very supportive of helping the children develop social skills and expressing themselves in guided problem solving, and focusing on using "big boy/girl voices".

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. The parents take it in turn to provide snacks and a list of appropriate suggestions is provided. A limited supply of snack items is kept in the center to supplement as needed. Good food storage practices were generally observed though there was at least 1 open bulk cracker bag that was not in a sealed container. It was reviewed that rolling the bag and use of "chip clips" is not an acceptable practice and that all food items must be placed in air tight sealable food grade containers to reduce the risk of insect/rodent contamination, and spoilage. A menu of the snacks provided was maintained. Snack was provided during the time of the visit and it was reviewed that even though the center is not participating in the Adult & Child Care Food Program (CACFP) those guidelines must still be followed for nutritional content. It is noted that one of the children was celebrating a birthday and the CACFP does allow for non-credible foods to be provided for special occasions such as birthdays and holidays. However, it did appear that the center also had items that would not be considered credible such as fruit gummi snacks, and offering chocolate milk. It was reviewed that flavored milk is not allowed for children under 6 years of age, and all children over 2 years of age should be provided with low or non-fat (1% or skim) milk. While the teachers did not eat with the children supervision was provided at the table.

Good health and safety policies are in place. The center makes use of the school custodial services to do the primary

sanitizing and disinfecting of surfaces, but also cleans throughout the day as needed. Mixed hand washing practices were observed with the teachers ensuring the children washed their hands and that they did so in an effective manner following restroom use, but did not have the children wash their hands prior to snack service. Hand sanitizer was also available in the classroom but stored where use could be monitored by the teachers. There were no children taking any medications, and due to the limited hours of operation medications are not routinely administered but policies are in place should it become necessary in the future. Information regarding allergy plans are maintained for children who have diagnosed allergies. A first aid kit is maintained in the classroom and had a limited supply of materials to address most common first aid needs. Additional materials are available in the school office. Chemical cleaners, personal items, and other items that could pose a safety risk to children were stored where they were not accessible to the children.

While the school does have outdoor space available the children make use of the school gymnasium for large motor skill activities. The children were playing in the gym when I arrived for the visit and there was a variety of items for the children to play with. The teachers did provide supervision, and the class made use of the gym at a time where they were the only children present.

All required notices were posted in an area accessible to all parents and visitors. Child files were reviewed and were found to contain all required information. Jean was not in on the day of the visit to allow for a review of staff files however information was provided later by email to confirm that background checks, physicals, and trainings had been updated and were current. All inspection logs and certificates were available and current. The center handbook has been previously reviewed and found to contain all required policies.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The teachers of program do an excellent job of engaging and interacting with the children. Both teachers were actively engaged with the children throughout the visit in presenting the curriculum, providing assistance, and interacting with the children. Both teachers appeared to have developed very close and personal relationships where they knew and engaged with the children on an individualized level allowing them to adjust the manner of engagement and support for each child. This resulted in there being no behavioral concerns and the children having a very positive experience.

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

109.10(8): Children’s hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. For each infant or child with a disability, a separate cloth for washing and one for rinsing may be used in place of running water. Children’s hands shall be washed:Immediately before eating or participating in food service activity.After using the restroom or being diapered.After handling animals.
-- Children did not wash their hands immediately prior to eating as required.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

A full license will remain in effect 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.