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

Name of Center: Little Friends FM Childcare LLC **Enrollment:** 10 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52134

Street: 2134 Avenue **City:** Fort Madison Iowa **Zip** 52627 **County:** Lee

Mailing Address:

Director's Name: Beth Lumino **Phone Number:** 319-372-4907

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kaleb Blaesing **E-Mail:** bethlumino@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 04-12-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 04-25-2023

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

Date Inspected: 04-25-2023

Comments : due annually, performed by Capt. Joey Herren Ft. Madison Fire Dept.

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		10	10	10	30
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 05-01-2023 to 05-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 06-12-2023

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Little Friends FM Childcare LLC is a newly licensed center located on the lower floor of a remodeled masonry apartment building in a residential area of Ft. Madison. There is no direct access to the upper floor of the building from the center. The building is an older structure and was not designed for child care. The center provides full day child care for children ages two years through school age and is located in a residential area of Ft. Madison. The owner/director is Beth Lumino. Ms. Lumino has a HS Diploma and has been an in home childcare provider since 2009.

The center was in operation several years prior to her ownership under another name. Kaleb Blaesing is the on site supervisor. He recently graduated from UNI with a BA. He worked in Beth's in home childcare program since 2012. He is present and in charge when Beth is not present. Beth and Kaleb were present on the day of the visit.

On 4/5/23 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Little Friends FM Child Care LLC and met with owner/director Director Lumino and OSS Blaesing. At the time of the visit, staff was actively engaged in providing the child care program to the children. All areas of the program were observed and addressed. Discussions consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

The center has three classrooms, a kitchen/cafeteria area, and office. One classroom is devoted to toddler care, one to preschool age care and one to a school age program. The school age room doubles as a preschool age early childhood educational classroom during the day when school age children are not present. There is additional space attached to the kitchen where children can eat or do other activities. The classrooms are clean, bright, and attractive and equipped with a satisfactory variety of child sized furniture, equipment, toys, games, and activities for the children.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed:

Meals and snacks are prepared in the center kitchen (or at the family residence) by staff members and served family style in the dining area outside the kitchen. Posted menus indicate that minimum nutritional requirements were not met the date of the visit. We discussed thorough menus should be kept with substitutions noted. The center is directed to follow CACFP guidelines for all meals and snacks. No food was stored on the floor. No expired food items were present. All food waste containers were covered. Thermometers were not in the refrigerator and freezer, but this has been corrected. We discussed all foods served must meet CACFP program requirements, with the exception of special occasions. We discussed resources online for CACFP qualified foods.

Center Nutrition Practices Observed:

Meals and snacks are prepared in the center kitchen by staff members and served family style in the dining area connected to the kitchen. Children do not have access to the kitchen and a swinging locked door separates the kitchen area from the main program room. The Center does not currently participate in the CACFP program, but menus appear to follow food program guidelines. Posted menus indicate that minimum nutritional requirements are met on most food items but not all.

The kitchen area is small and has little storage. We inspected food storage. Canned food is kept in cabinets in the kitchen area. Cold and frozen food storage was observed. All cold and frozen food that was opened had been stored in appropriate containers. We discussed recommended food storage temperatures. No expired food items were found in dry or cool storage.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and no sanitation issues noted. The food waste container was covered.

Center Health and Safety:

The center administers prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. The center administers prescription and non-prescription medication in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. Medication is stored in the first aid cabinet or refrigerator. One Epi Pen was correctly labeled with a pharmacist or physician label. Signed medication documentation was present with the pen. Cough syrup and other nonprescription medications should be labeled with full names.

The center is aware of regulations regarding staff and child hand washing, storage and maintenance of a first aid kit, environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment, and general regulations regarding safety and sanitation policies and procedures.

Capacity for the rooms are 5 children (end room), ten children (middle room), ten children (space attached to kitchen) and the school age room has capacity for 8. The building has two restrooms, one upstairs and one downstairs. The downstairs area of the building contains a toilet and a sink. The rest of the area is used for storage. The center must contain one toilet and sink for each 15 children in room with ventilation. This reduces capacity for this year to 30. This area also contains a dehumidifier.

The center generally has a daily count of around 10 children per day. The owner will add children as she feels comfortable.

CCNC Cyndi Mason met with the former Director and conducted a lead based paint inspection a few years ago. She noted the following":
1. All original wooden base boards where exposed to child contact should be wet cleaned and vacuumed or wet mopped thoroughly along edges on a weekly basis. One or two areas of the paint were quite deteriorated. These areas need to be repainted. Education was given on safely wet sanding or scraping and precautions for containment of any paint chips during this process.
2. Original wooden door frames-The areas around these need to be kept vacuumed or wet mopped up to the edges of the base on a weekly basis
3. Original wooden window frames-The sills need to be wet cleaned on a weekly basis.
4. Painted chest of drawers-paint is in poor condition. Amy does not know how old this chest is. This unit should be repainted and care should be taken to wet clean around the base of this unit carefully on a regular basis
5. Entrance-the paint is deteriorating inside the covered entrance but it does not appear to have a lead paint appearance. However, I cannot know if this is lead paint or not so I recommend that the entrance floor and steps be thoroughly cleaned. If paint chips are seen drifting down onto the floor after cleaning then this area needs to be damp mopped on a regular basis to keep the paint chips from coming in on shoes OR wet sand/scrape and contain the peeling paint and repaint the interior of this entrance.
6. Back door of garage facing playground. The paint on this door likely has lead in it. It is in very poor repair. This door needs to be wet scraped with care taken to contain paint chips and then repainted. Amy should try to pick up paint chips that have fallen to ground and mixed with the wood chips or, preferably, remove the chips around the door and replace with new chips
7. Old teeter totter on playground-the paint on the wooden seats is deteriorating. These should be repainted."

These areas were addressed utilizing safe IDPH work methods in May 2023 by the new owners of the building. Due to concern of lead based paint being in the facility the Lumino's followed IDPH guidelines, wet sanded and repainted all areas that may contain chipping lead based paint in the past 30 days. The Director agrees to continue to monitor the program spaced for chipping lead based paint.

The downstairs area is utilized for staff and children in case of a tornado. There is only one exit from the basement to upstairs. The Director indicated this area is not frequently used. Typically this restroom is utilized when a child is accompanied from the outside play area to come indoors.

Parking for the center is mainly on the street. There is a small two car area to park directly in front of a two car garage that is owned by the owner of the building that can be utilized by staff and parents. The sidewalk leading up to the main entrance of the center has buckled and is a potential tripping hazard. To enter the center you must go upstairs. The Center is not handicap accessible.

Upon arrival all children were napping. Ratio was met. Cots were appropriately spaced (at least 2 feet apart) and lighting was such that children could be appropriately supervised.

Regulations regarding staff and child hand washing, storage and maintenance of a first aid kit were reviewed. First aid kids are labeled and are kept in each room of the center. Mobile packs that are taken outside and on field trips were labeled as well.

Regulations regarding general regulations regarding safety and sanitation policies and procedures were addressed. Drills for fire and tornados will be logged and maintained.

Hand washing and diaper changing posters were noted. A diaper changing poster was also above the changing area.

We discussed directions on sanitizing and disinfecting procedure including dwell time. We discussed other best practice options. We discussed that cot sheets and toys should be
washed/sanitized weekly.

The center has no pets or plants. Ceiling tiles have been replaced if they have water damage or were sagging. All electrical outlets were covered.

Center Playground:

The outdoor play area is directly behind the center. The area is fenced and naturally shaded. The area contains anchored wooden climbing and activity toys and unanchored plastic climbing and activity toys. A concrete runway for tricycle and big wheel riding is available as well as a sandbox. The entire area, with the exception of the concrete runway, is surfaced with wood chips of adequate depth. IDPH CCNC Hayes conducted an Injury Prevention Checklist outdoors in June 2022. The new Director followed up with CCNC Hayes to address notes. She is making corrections listed on the Injury Prevention Checklist.

The Child Care Weather Watch should be utilized to determine if outdoor play or field trips are advisable in varying weather conditions.

The new owner will be performing Outdoor Play inspections monthly and documenting these on the appropriate forms. A wooden climbing structure has been removed that has been present for years. A small castle and slide is present, open play houses, and riding toys.

The owner is aware of fall zone and surfacing requirements.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The center does not own a vehicle. Walking field trips require an extra staff in ratio. A first aid kit and emergency contacts and medication should taken on walking trips.

Center Administrative Records:.

The center is in compliance with regulations regarding required notices and postings and required written policies provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook. Staff records and child records are examined annually.

Curriculum and lesson plans should be utilized daily. We discussed lesson plans. The curriculum is teacher selected. Interest centers available to the children include: blocks, children's literature, dramatic play, toys and games, puzzles and small manipulatives, art, music and movement, and science and discovery..

The center offers crafts or art projects a few times a week.

The center has a specific Emergency Preparedness Plan for this site. All staff should be trained on the plan annually and sign and date acknowledgment of such.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The Director will consider participating in IQ4K and CACFP.
The Director agreed to contact the local CCNC to if she has questions on the Injury Prevention Checklists.
She agrees to follow up with CCNC Hayes on the issues cited.
The Director has access to Child Care Resource and Referral services and has accessed them prior to opening and after.

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

1. 109.4(2)g: When serving children under the age of 3, develop & and implement a policy for responding to incidents of biting. Include: Explanation of center philosophy on biting. How the center will respond to individual and ongoing incidents. How the center will assess the adequacy of caregiver supervision. How the center will respond to the child or caregiver who was bitten .The process of notification of parents. How the incident will be documented. How confidentiality will be protected. First aid procedures that will be used. The Director agreed to create a biting policy.

109.4(3)b: Postings are required for: Mandatory reporter requirements. Notice of availability of handbook. Program activities. These shall be posted in area frequented by parents or public. now CORRECTED

2. 109.4(4): Requirements and procedures for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse shall be posted where they can be read by staff and parents. Now CORRECTED

109.4(5): Child Care Centers and Preschool Licensing Standards and Procedures shall be available in the center and a notice stating a copy is available for review. Contact information of the child care consultant shall be included in the notice.

All required postings are now present. CORRECTED

3. 109.6(2): Director or on-site supervisor on-site during the hours of operation or a minimum of six hours of center's hours of operation. Information on on-site supervisor's qualifications is submitted to the consultant prior to employment and is sufficient to make a determination. On-site supervisor meets qualifications or is "qualifiable" with a plan established to meet qualifications. On the date of the visit no OSS had been appointed. The newly appointed OSS will be taking CPR/1st Aid in July.

4. 109.10(15)a: The center shall have written emergency plans and diagrams for responding to fire, tornado, flood, and plans responding to intoxicated parents, and lost or abducted children. Shall have guidelines for responding or evacuating in case of blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, or other disasters that could create structural damage to the center or pose health hazards. If center is within 10 miles of nuclear power plant, center shall have evacuation plan. Emergency plans shall include written procedures including plans for- Evacuation to safely leave the facility- Relocation to a common, safe location after evacuation- Shelter in place to take immediate shelter when the current location is unsafe to leave due to the emergency issue- Lock down to protect children and providers from an external situation- Communication and reunification with parents or other adults Responsible for the children which includes emergency telephone numbers- Continuity of operations- To address the individual children, including those with functional or access needs.

This plan is now present. Staff have been trained on the plan and dated and signed acknowledgement of such. CORRECTED

5. 109.11(7)a: Centers built before 1978: Assessment and plan for remedy of lead paint hazard is conducted. All areas containing lead based paint have been treated with IDPH safe work methods and painted over. The Director agreed to monitor these areas and ensure any chipping paint is quickly addressed. CORRECTED

6. 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.

Schedules are posted in each room now. Curriculum for the next two weeks is completed. CORRECTED

7. 109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines. Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals. Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep. New menus are present. CORRECTED

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the items listed in Section IV. The Director gave me a verbal commitment that the noted rule violations would be promptly corrected. It is important to note, all DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period. The Director quickly addressed violations after opening and will be working with CCNC Hayes and CCR&R moving forward.

The center may reach out to CCR&R Consultant Malia Love or Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Amy Hayes at any time for consultation.
Child Care Nurse Consultants work with child care and early education businesses. Businesses may call or send questions to a child care nurse consultant about health and safety policies, health programs, health of personnel, and specific child health or safety issues. CCNC Amy Hayes met with Director Beth Lumino prior to the program being set up. I spoke with her over the phone on 6/1/23. She had not visited yet but will plan a visit.

Child Care Resource & Referral offer centers assistance with meeting the DHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. HHS recommends centers utilize IDPH and CCR&R services. Malia met with Beth on 5/31/23 to go over violations and corrections.

*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.