Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Mohawk Child Care

Provider No.: 52871

Address: 112 E King St, Moravia, IA, 52571

County: Appanoose

Director's Name: Marcia Benjamin

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 6417243241

E-Mail: heidi.groff@moraviacsd.com

HHS Visit Date: 11/10/2025

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/08/2025

Comments: due every three years, performed by State Fire Inspector Damien Dawson

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Tuesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Wednesday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Thursday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Friday	6:30 AM to 6:00 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [ ] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [X] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	8	8	8	32
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

Little Mohawks Child Care is a new program (2025). The program consists of four rooms, a small office and kitchen area and two separate outdoor play areas. The space was specifically designed for childcare.

The program is currently offered year round and serves infant through 6th grade children. On 11/10/25 I made an announced licensing visit to the program and met with Director Benjamin. A Permission to Open visit was conducted during summer months.

The visit consisted of classroom and building area review and observations of activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. Phone and email consultation and collaboration have occurred the past four years addressing these topics in relation to licensing.

The program also has the assistance of School Superintendent Sam Swenson and the Moravia School Board.

The young infant room contains cribs and has capacity for three infants. The program contains a room for older infants, two year olds, and preschool/school age children. No safety hazards were observed in these rooms. Age appropriate curriculum will be utilized in each room.

The Before/After School Program will sometimes be held at this site as well. After school they will encourage the children with homework/tutoring time where children can work on homework. The staff will assist students when requested. Those who don't have homework will engage in their free choice of quiet play activities. An assortment of art supplies, toys, and board games donated by community members allow the children a variety of activities. The program also includes a snack,

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outside play, a hands-on enrichment activity, and more free choice activities. Guest speakers may also be invited to provide special programs. Enrichment activities planned by the Director or On-Site Supervisor will be varied in the academic disciplines drawing from art, science, math, reading, drama, social studies, music, food, computers etc.

The classrooms are clean, bright, attractive and equipped with a satisfactory variety of toys, games, and activities for the children. Storage space in the form of cabinetry is available. The curriculum is designed by staff and is similar to school curriculum but does not duplicate it.

I observed afternoon routines. The program was in ratio.

Program Nutrition Observations:

The requirement is menus planned 1 week in advance, made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. The rule is: Each child served a full nutritionally balanced meal or snack as defined by CACFP guidelines and serving sizes for meals and snacks are followed. This rule was met the date of the visit. Menus were observed and met compliance for lunch.

Tables are cleaned prior to meals and snacks with a bleach water mixture. The program also has a bottle of soapy water for debris removal. Bleach is mixed daily. Food waste containers should be covered. Snack is offered daily. The Director and I inspected the food for the program, which is kept in the kitchen area. Cold and frozen refrigeration units contain thermometers. Food storage temperatures were under recommendations of 40 degrees. No food was stored on the floor. Dry and canned food was stored appropriately. I did not observe expired food items in either dry or cold food storage. Snack menus will be kept moving forward.

Center Health and Safety:

The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision. This is best achieved when children are broken into separate groups. Careful supervision was being practiced the date of the visit. Each staff was in charge of 2 children each and the Director was present.

We reviewed regulations regarding the storage and maintenance of program First Aid Kits. One labeled kit is stored near the office area inaccessible to children as is any medication. It is easily accessible to staff in case of emergency. A supervised quiet area will be designated when necessary.

We reviewed medication guidelines. Medications must be stored in original containers with physician/pharmacist directions and label intact. and inaccessible to children and public. Nonprescription medications must be labeled with child's name. Notation of administration of medication for everyday authorization is in effect and child is in attendance, including medication, date, time, dosage and initials of person administering. There are currently no children in the program on medication (daily or emergency). IDPH CCNC can assist the center with health, asthma or allergy action plans.

We discussed environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment. The fuel burning appliances inspection is up to date and due annually. Radon testing was conducted in 2025. Updated testing is due every 5 years. Testing should be conducted in winter months when the ground is frozen. An UL approved plug in carbon monoxide detector is present. The Director or OSS should read the expiration date on the product information stating when the unit will expire. The building is on Rathbun Rural Water therefore water analysis is not required. The building was constructed after 1971, therefore a lead based paint assessment is not required.

Ventilation and light are adequate in all areas of the building. Windows can be opened to assist in ventilation.

We reviewed general regulations regarding safety policies and procedures. Ratio was observed and maintained according to licensing standards on the day of the visit. The program is aware that each child must have at least 35 square feet of usable floor space in the classrooms. Capacity rules were not exceeded.

Volunteers should always be under the direct observation of staff. All volunteers and substitutes shall sign a statement indicating whether or not they have one of the following:
a. (1) Conviction of any law in any state or any record of founded child abuse or dependent adult abuse in any state.
(2) A communicable disease or other health concern that could pose a threat to the health, safety, or well being of the

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children. b. (1) Complete form 595-136 DHS Criminal History Record Check, Form B
(3) Complete Form 470-0643, Request for Child Abuse Information.
(4) Sign a statement indicating the volunteer or substitute has been informed of the volunteer's or substitute's responsibilities as a
mandatory reporter.
Any visitors to the Center shall complete the tasks above.

All cabinets were checked for unsafe items. All items accessible to the children were child safe. Staff keep purses out of reach of the children. No tipping, toppling or tripping hazards were identified. Electrical outlets were adequately covered.

I reviewed program compliance with regulations regarding emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado.

We reviewed general regulations regarding sanitation policies and procedures. Staff clean toys, tables, puzzles and around the rooms. Center staff also vacuum the classroom areas and clean the restrooms.

Students and teachers wash their hands at snack time, after bathroom, or when coming in from the outdoors. Hand washing signs are hanging by each sink and in the restrooms. An adequate amount of toileting articles were present.

Outdoor Play Area:

The children have access to two grassy areas around the childcare building for outdoor play. The program meets space requirements for outdoor play (75 square feet per each child).

Documented playground inspections will be conducted on a monthly basis for any hazards. Some areas have natural shade and shade from the building. Mobile First Aid Kits are taken outdoors. Children should have at least 75 square feet of space each when engaged in gross motor activities. At least one person on duty in the center, should accompany children in the outdoor play area, or on field trips is over eighteen and has current certification in CPR and first-aid.

Program Transportation/Field Trips:

The program will not regularly transport the children. Staff will only transport in the case of emergency. The program has no plans on taking field trips where transportation is necessary. Walking field trips will be taken in or around the community. First aid kits should be taken on walking field trips.

If the students are evacuated from the building for any reason, staff will walk them to a designated area listed in the handbook.

Program Administration:

The Capturing Kids' Hearts Program and the Character Counts Program is used to help children learn acceptable behavior and develop self-control.

The handbook contains a parent unlimited access policy as well as a limited access policy. It further contains several emergency procedures. The handbook outlines discipline, the following techniques will be followed: Redirection, Time Out Within the Area, Time Out Away from The Group, Daily Note, Behavior Intervention Meeting, Behavior Incident Report, Send Child Home, Suspension and Termination of Services. An evacuation of immobile child policy and a policy specifically addressing the handling of bodily fluids is present.

Staff files were reviewed in accordance with requirements including Iowa Criminal Background checks are present (due every 2 years), staff physicals, due every 3 years, Universal Precautions due upon hire. Mandatory reporter training is due every 3 years, and CPR/First Aid (due every two years). Each employee has signed the criminal conviction statement. All employees have current fingerprint results and will be completed every 4 years. Essentials training is required as is updated general training each year.

Child files were reviewed including signed statements of health for school age children and physicals were present for each child preschool age or younger. Each child had emergency contacts on file as well as field trip authorizations, immunizations, physicals, medical and dental information and pick up authorizations.

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The program schedule is hanging on the main parent board. Emergency evacuation procedures/maps are posted by program doors. I observed Emergency postings including Poison Control, 911 and the center phone number and address posted. Other mandatory postings such as license consultant contact information and mandatory reporting of child abuse were present. A No Smoking sign is posted on the main entrance. The program schedule for each room is displayed.

Annual staff training should be held on the emergency preparedness plan. . All emergency plans should be reviewed including blizzards, power outages, intoxicated parent, etc.... Staff have signed and dated this training included in the handbook

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program meets a need in the community.

The building and equipment are new.

Ratio is excellent.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

1. 109.11(4)a: Center must have safe outdoor program area adjacent to the center, with sufficient square footage to accommodate at least 30 percent of the enrollment capacity at any one time at 75 spear feet per child. Outdoor space must: Be free from litter and unsafe materials and free from contamination by the drainage or ponding of sewage or storm water. Include safe play equipment and an area of shade. Include fencing to protect from bodies of water or vehicular traffic. Playground inspections should be documented monthly.
Climbing equipment in the outdoor play area is not commercial grade and has no surfacing beneath it. It was moved after the HHS visit (CORRECTED)

Playground inspections should be documented monthly. This will begin in November.

2. 109.13(1 and 2): 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. Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted. Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking. The Director agreed to begin keeping snack menus.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

The Director and OSS should meet with IDPH CCNC Mandi Lauderman and CCR&R Child Care Consultant Karen Lauer for licensing issues and best practice suggestions.

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center begin in Full licensing status. The center is directed to correct the deficiencies noted above. The center is further directed to continue current compliance efforts and maintain current practice. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant Karen Lauer. Consultant Lauer contacted the Director prior to the relocation and making a visit in 2024. In the past year including IQ4K, training and consultation on the EPP. She also toured the building prior to moving. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, IQ4K,

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child concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Since 4.11.25 Consultant Lauer has provided the following:
• TA: 23 – topics: support licensing, business policies and practices, training consultation, safety, environment, refer/support to other programs, health, emergency preparedness and Growing Iowa
• On-Site Consultation: 4 – topics: support licensing, environment, business policies and practices, training consultation and Growing Iowa
It is evident the program participates in services with the level of compliance shown during the visit. This is duly noted.

Funding provided by the Iowa Department of Human Services through the Child Care and Development Fund

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant. Iowa Department of Public Health Child Care Nurse Consultant Mandi Lauderman works 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. She provided the following the past year:: November 2025: provided consultation, they were considering purchasing some equipment from curious kids. I also provided some guidance about cleaning, sanitation, disinfection and we discussed the storage of breastmilk."

The center can access PBIS Coach Joan Garrett who conducts training/ presentations and PBIS coaching and consultation.

Date: 11/13/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.