

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

REQUEST FOR CITY PLAN COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Application for Conditional Use Permit by Little Rainbows, Inc. to operate an in-home childcare center with up to 12 children located at 2406 N 28th St. SR-5 Zone.

REPORT PREPARED BY: Ellise Rose, Zoning Administrator

REPORT DATE: June 15, 2026

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2026

FISCAL SUMMARY:

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

Budget Line Item: N/A
Budget Summary: N/A
Budgeted Expenditure N/A
Budgeted Revenue: N/A

Wisconsin Statutes: N/A
Municipal Code: N/A

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Little Rainbows, Inc. is proposing to operate an in-home childcare center with up to 12 children located at 2406 N 28th St. The applicant states the following:

- The purpose of this conditional use permit request is to allow up to 12 children to attend this family childcare home.
- We have operated family childcare centers in our city for over 31 years.
- Our city, as well as many others, are facing a crisis in childcare availability; particularly in the infant to 2-year-old category.
- Our community has been growing exponentially without having sufficient childcare slots to fill the daycare needs.
- In 2025, the Wisconsin legislature passed legislation to help ease this issue by expanding the current 8 child enrollments to 12 and qualify only those family childcare centers who meet very strict criteria.
- The proposed start date for implementation is August 1st, 2026. In order for Little Rainbows, Inc. to be approved by the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families for this increase in child enrollments, the following criteria must be met without exception:
 1. Current license and in good standing.
 2. Both interior and exterior square footage dedicated for children must meet minimum size capacity, i.e., 35 interior square feet per child and 75 square feet per child for exterior environment.
 3. There must be two qualified providers (not assistants or volunteers) present as ratios dictate per new guidelines.

4. All Wis DCF 250 regulations must be followed.
- About Little Rainbows, Inc.
 1. Since the inception of quality ratings for both group and family childcare centers in 2011, Little Rainbows, Inc. Has earned a quality rating of 5-stars through the Wisconsin Youngstar Quality Rating System and since October, 2014, we have been a member and accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care, NAFCC, which hold providers to a higher standard than Youngstar. Youngstar recognizes the center and NAFCC recognizes the individual providers.
 2. Little Rainbows, Inc. has been the only 5-star rated center in the 53083-zip code since relocating to 28th Street in 2016. This achievement considers all group, family and day camps together. See the screen-shots from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families website which verifies our claim.
 3. To earn a 5-star quality recognition, many strict standards must be met. Among those requirements, both Terry and Elise Wiegert must have a college degree in the child development field.
 4. Daycare centers have unannounced inspections regularly. Little Rainbows, Inc. has not received a non-compliance statement in over 17 years of inspections.
 5. Terry and Elise Wiegert have devoted their careers for over thirty years caring for children including those children with special needs or health issues such as deafness or pediatric cancer.
 6. Prior to COVID, the Wiegerts ran two different 5-star family childcare centers. During COVID, when many group and family centers ceased operations, Terry closed his center and joined Little Rainbows, Inc. in order to run the daycare together for two shifts daily; seven days a week. This went on for many unexpected, exhausting years to give our community's essential workers a quality center which was willing to continue to serve during those difficult times.
 7. Both Terry and Elise Wiegert reside at the residence and are the only employees.
 8. Currently, Little Rainbows, Inc. operates one shift; Monday thru Friday. We close for holidays and vacations which wrap around the week of July 4th and between Christmas and New Year's Day. One shift typically runs from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Customers drop off randomly from 6:00am to 9:30am; using approximately 4 minutes. Pick-up time usually runs randomly from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Using approximately 8 minutes. The center rarely has more than two families present simultaneously.
 9. With eight children, we currently boast a provider to child ratio of 1:4. Our ratio will be 1:6 when serving twelve children. Since family in-home centers usually ren one provider for eight children, our quality care ratio will continue to be below the state's averages.
 10. Our backyard encloses 3000 square ft with a 6' cedar fence except for the entry gate. We typically play for outside 45 to 60 minutes daily from 10:30am to 11:30am, weather-permitting.
 11. The attached floor plans indicate 933 square feet for daycare use. The lower level is a new classroom which is pending usage approval from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. The intent is for each classroom to be occupied by one provider and six children.
 12. Photos are submitted to indicate a well-maintained residential front yard (never with signage) and a backyard with a privacy fence. The driveway has three parking spaces with full approaches, street parking remains typically unoccupied by parked vehicles both during the day and over-night, and the Wiegert's vehicles are stored in an attached garage.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The applicant wants to operate an in-home daycare with up to 12 children, which is permitted with a conditional use permit.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff recommends approval of the conditional use permit subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to operation, the applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and licenses including but not limited to building, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, fire, health, etc.
2. If the applicant moves from the present location the conditional use permit will not move with the applicant.
3. If there are any amendments to the approved conditional use permit and/or site plan, the applicant will be required to submit a new conditional use application reflecting those amendments.

ATTACHMENTS:

Conditional Use Permit Application and Attachments