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

Name of Center: Hope West Des Moines Children's Center **Enrollment:** 75 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 35671

Street: 925 Jordan Creek PKWY **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 925 Jordan Creek PKWY, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Connie Keller **Phone Number:** 515-422-9153

On-Site Supervisor(s): Kerri Gearhart and Danielle Kelly **E-Mail:** connie.keller@hopewdm.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-09-2025

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:** 05-13-2025

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

Date Inspected: 02-25-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years per licensing. The City of West Des Moines typically does annual inspections.

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: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age 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	36	23	28	0	87
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2025 to 07-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-10-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing inspection visit was conducted on 6/9/25. The director was present throughout the visit. The director's supervisor was present at the beginning of the visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Hope West Des Moines Children's Center (formerly known as Lutheran Church of Hope Daycare) is a center that opened on 6/24/11 within Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. Hope West Des Moines Preschool (formerly known as New Horizons Preschool) is also located within the church. The center is overseen by a Church Board. Connie Keller is the director of this program as of 9/2022. Connie has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and also has an Early Childhood Endorsement. Kerri Gearhart and Danielle Kelly are the on-site supervisors and meet the qualifications for their positions based on education, experience, and/or professional development training completed.

The center serves children six weeks in age to five years in age. The center is using seven classrooms (approved for eight). The center uses the Creative Learning Curriculum, Ages and Stages, and Iowa Early Learning Standards (IELS) with children.

During the visit, children were observed washing their hands, eating lunch, engaged in free-choice play/tummy time, and napping in cribs. Staff were being attentive to all children and their activities. Children and staff gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center was very clean, bright, and well-decorated. The church/center also has their own janitorial staff.

Carpets are being shampooed ever other week in all classrooms (quarterly is National standards).

The center classrooms sends out a monthly newsletter to parents. The center also uses the Bright Wheels app for forms, checklists, communication with parents, etc.

The center has a washer and dryer on site as well as a commercial dishwasher within the church that can be used as needed.

The center uses a walkie-talkie system between classrooms and areas used by the center.

Ratios in the infant room are kept at one staff to every three children which goes above minimal state regulations of one staff to every four infants.

The center has access to a large indoor gym area that they can use for bad weather days.

The center has a preschool component.

The director has her NAC credentials. She is also organized.

The director believes the center has a good group of staff who work well together and that the center has a good working relationship with other church personnel as a whole.

There is a food service program within the church/center that now provides lunches for the center.

There is a camera system in place.

Staff and children files were nicely organized.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

There is a staff recognition program in place. Staff are also eligible for certain benefits.

The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Several staff members are involved in the TEACH and WAGES programs.

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

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one epipen that was expired. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
There were a couple of cords observed that were freely dangling rather than being tucked behind shelving or more securely fastened to the walls.

109.11(7)c: All centers: Annual inspection prior to heating season of all fuel-burning appliances to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and shall install one carbon monoxide detector on each floor that conforms to UL Standard 2034.
The one on file expired end of 5/2025. This was most likely inspected again recently, but the center did not have a copy of the inspection.

109.12(5)e: The provider shall follow safe sleep practices recommended by AAP for infants under one year of age: Infants shall always be placed on their back for sleep. Infants shall be placed on a firm mattress with a tight fitted sheet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission federal standards. Infants shall not be allowed to sleep on a bed, sofa, air mattress or other soft surface. No child will be allowed to sleep in any items not designed for sleeping but not limited to, an infant seat, car seat, swing, bouncy seat. No toys, soft objects, stuffed animals, pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or loose bedding shall be allowed in the sleeping area with the infant. No co-sleeping shall be allowed. Sleeping infants shall be actively observed by sight and sound. If an alternate sleeping position is needed, a signed physician or physician assistant authorization with statement of medical reason is required.
For children using sleep sacks, the arms and hands of children should be free rather than sewn into the sleep sack.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
For children that bring in their own lunches, all food groups (grain, protein, vegetable, fruit - or two vegetables, and milk) should be offered. If not all five groups present, the center needs to supplement. THIS IS A REPEAT VIOLATION FROM LAST YEAR, BUT FOR SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THINGS.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

It was noted previously that the center does not go on field trips other than walking field trips on campus. The center also brings in agencies for presentations to children.

Radon testing was last completed 6/23/21 - 6/24/21. All classrooms came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

The current boiler inspection on file expired at the end of 5/2025. The center should get a copy of this from the other program located within the church or from the church.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded. First-Aid/CPR and Mandatory Reporter should also be uploaded.

It was noted that the field turf on the playground is coming up in two areas where children dig. This will need to be repaired to prevent a potential tripping hazard.

A child-sized couch in one of the two year old classrooms should be replaced.

It was noted that the center (church) is undergoing some reconstruction. As a result, some of the playground surfacing had to be torn apart. The center is not using this specific space until this area can be repaired.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.