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

Name of Center: Ashworth Learning Center **Enrollment:** 104 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51448

Street: 5300 Ashworth Road **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5300 Ashworth RD, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Kerri Clark **Phone Number:** 515-481-5437

On-Site Supervisor(s): Brenna Palmer **E-Mail:** kerri@ashworth.center

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

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-13-2023

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

Date Inspected: 07-11-2024

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal was also out on 2/26/24.

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 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	41	17	72	0	130
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2023 to 09-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 08-09-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 8/8/24. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present throughout 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.

Ashworth Learning Center is a center located in West Des Moines, IA that was given permission to open on 8/9/21. The center is located within a wing of the Ashworth Road Baptist Church on the main and lower levels of the building. The center serves children six weeks in age through five years in age using the Frog Street Learning Curriculum. There are a total of nine classrooms. Capacity of the main level classrooms in order are 22, 8, 17 on one side and then 9, 9, and 15 on the other side. The lower level classrooms have a capacity of 24, 10, and 16.

The center is owned by the church. The center is open Monday - Friday and year-round. The center director is Kerri Clark. Kerri has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working in child care. Brenna Palmer is the on-site supervisor. Brenda meets the qualifications for on-site supervisor based on her years of experience and professional development training.

During the visit, children were observed having a diaper changed, having tummy time, being held, napping in cribs, playing outside on the playground, having calendar/group time facilitated by staff, and engaged in free-choice play at other learning stations set up in classrooms. Staff were actively engaged with children and all of their activities. Children gave sufficient and specific answers as to where they go when they practice monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment has increased over the past year.

The center uses an electronic app (Bright Wheel) for daily sheets and another form of communication with parents.

There is a secure entrance into the center. There are also security cameras in classrooms.

The director and on-site supervisor are organized and have past experience working in child care.

The center was very clean.

The director feels she has a good staff with a good mix of experience. Staff reportedly work well with each other and communication between staff is good. Staff are supportive of each other.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The center has gone through several renovations within the past year with adding classrooms and restrooms as well as interior painting.

The center participates in CACFP.

The center utilizes their nurse consultant and CCR&R consultant as needed.

The center has good community supports.

Staff stated they appreciate the director and her openness with them and leadership.

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

There is a staff "shout out" board to recognize good work.

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

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 1 staff member did not have a current physical in their file.

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. Sufficient lighting shall be provided.
1. It was too dark initially in the six month - 12 month classroom. THIS ISSUE WAS CORRECTED DURING THE VISIT.
2. There needs to be six foot fall zones for the indoor climbing structure.

109.15(5)b: Sanitary and safe methods in food preparation, serving, and storage sufficient to prevent transmission of disease, infestation, and spoilage are followed.
There was one issue with dry food storage where the food wasn't sufficiently sealed after being opened and not entirely consumed.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

An addendum is being made to the center license as they have added a new classroom that has a capacity of 16 children, bringing the total capacity of the center to 130 children.
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Radon testing was last conducted 10/28/21 - 11/1/21. 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 furnace and fuel burning appliances are generally serviced two times a year and the last invoice on file was from 5/23/24.

The center is not currently doing field trips. If they do so in the future, they will be walking field trips around the surrounding area or they may contact with the school district to take a bus for field trips not within walking distance. The center does bring in presenters for children.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload their professional development training hours into I - Power.

It is recommended the 18 month - 24 month old classroom be re-arranged some so that the one changing table (not currently being used) is not right next to one of the evacuation cribs.

It is recommended no Boppy pillows in the younger classrooms.

The bottom of one of the freezers needs to be wiped clean.

It was noted that the center has a work order in for their playground for one small spot where the poured in place rubber surfacing is damaged and for another smaller structure. This equipment is new within the past year and still under warranty.

*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.