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

Name of Center: Hope West Des Moines Children's Center **Enrollment:** 69 **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: 06-12-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-02-2023

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

Date Inspected: 02-02-2024

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		87
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 07-01-2023 to 07-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 06-13-2024

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 6/12/24. The director was present throughout the visit. The director's supervisor was present towards the end 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 napping in cribs and engaged in free-choice play at different learning stations in classrooms, and tummy time (infants). Staff were involved with children and all of their activities.

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 remains steady.

There is a staff recognition program in place.

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 2
Information lacking: All children enrolled, regardless of age, need to have a doctor and a dentist listed. Information needed includes the names, addresses, and phone numbers.

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 expired epipen observed in one of the two year old classrooms.

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. Staff shall provide careful supervision.
The accordion doors should remain at least half way open rather than being fully closed when any infant is napping.

109.15(1): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.
A grain was missing on one of the lunch menu days.

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 expires in 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 is recommended the number of containers in the infant room be reduced.

Cribs should be wiped down daily rather than weekly. Cot handles should also be wiped down/cleaned daily.

Beans should be avoided in sensory tables.

In the four/five year old classroom, a daily schedule was posted and then the end of the day was posted in a binder. A full

day (start to end) should be posted.

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.

There was one epipen observed in a classroom that had two different expiration dates (4/2024 and 8/2024). This consultant also consulted with a nurse consultant after the visit concluded and the decision was made that the expiration on the actual epipen should be used. So the parents of this child will need to provide a new epipen in the near future.

*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.