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

Name of Center: The Strawberry Patch **Enrollment:** 54 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52678

Street: 102 Main ST **City:** Keokuk Iowa **Zip** 52632 **County:** Lee

Mailing Address: 102 Main ST, Keokuk, IA, 52632

Director's Name: Kelsey Leffler **Phone Number:** 319-524-5493

On-Site Supervisor(s): Jordan Kirk **E-Mail:** strawberry@churchbytheriver.net

Date(s) of Visit: 02-04-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 06-17-2025

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

Date Inspected: 09-25-2024

Comments : due annually by Keokuk Fire Department John Symmonds

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 X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	8	25	20	20	73
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

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

Licensing Consultant: Jill Seibert **Date:** 06-17-2025

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

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

The Strawberry Patch is located in the United Presbyterian Church downtown Keokuk Iowa. The program changed ownership in 2025 and was recently a licensed childcare center in another name. The program was formerly operational beginning in 2019 at another location. The center is owned by Second United Presbyterian Church of Keokuk. Pastor Diane Ludington supports the program.

Kelsey Leffler is the Director. She has 9 years experience working in licensed child care centers. She was an on-site supervisor in another licensed center prior to joining the Giving Tree in 2019 and served as Director for the Giving Tree for several years before it changed hands and became the Strawberry Patch. The center On Site Supervisor is Jordan Kirk. She has been employed with the former center since 2019. The program provides traditional child care, before and after school care, and preschool. The program serves infants to school age children.

The center is proactive regarding having a Director or OSS present and not in ratio. They have appointed other staff as secondary On Site Supervisors to ensure a designated person in charge is always present.

On 2/4/25 all program areas were observed on a licensing visit. I met with Director Leffler and OSS Kirk.

Program Observations:

The center utilizes both floors of the church and has an attached outdoor play area in front of the building. Cameras were installed in each room. Only the director and assistant director have access to the camera monitor. The childcare shares the church kitchen and other areas The center has assigned restrooms that the general public are directed not to use.

On the visit all program space was observed. The areas discussed, reviewed and noted consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Center Nutrition:

The center serves breakfast, snacks, and a noon meal to the children. Meals and snacks are prepared in the center kitchen and served in rooms. Meals are served family style and menu patterns appear to meet minimum nutritional requirements.

The Center will be participating in the CACFP Food Program. Food is stored in the kitchen and pantry area. I observed both dry and cold/freezing food storage. No food was stored on the floor. The infant classrooms prepare and serves bottles and infant meals in the classroom.

Center Health and Safety:

The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned. The program always has an extra staff present to give room staff breaks, assistance, etc...

The center director and I reviewed prescription and non-prescription medication storage in accordance with licensing regulations, physician directions, and parental consent. Staff and child hand washing, storage and maintenance of a first aid kit, emergency plans and drills for fire and tornado, environmental testing and the maintenance of any necessary detection equipment, and general regulations regarding safety and sanitation policies and procedures were reviewed.

Each room has its own first aid kit. Parents fill out a medication form when medication needs to be administered at the Center. Allergy information is posted in the kitchen, the rooms where the children are spending the day and on the room roster. Medical condition and allergy conditions lists are present with the children's pictures included. Administration is aware each child with allergies must have an Allergy Action Plan.

Emergency routes are posted in the main hall and in the rooms. I observed fire and tornado drill logs. Hand washing procedures are posted near every hand washing sink. Chemicals are stored in rooms inaccessible to children. The center should use only chemicals approved for childcare.

CCNC Hayes conducted an Injury Prevention Checklist on the former center on 5/6/21. She visited again on 6/14/21 to note improvements.

Radon testing was present with a level under 4 pCi/L. Updated testing is due every five years. The boiler inspection is current. It is due annually. Carbon monoxide detectors are throughout the building. The center is on city water. The church was constructed prior to 1969 so a lead based paint assessment is required and present.

Safe Sleep practices were followed the date of the visit. Ill or injured children are taken to the office.

Center Playground:

The center has a fenced and shaded outdoor play areas for toddlers and preschool/school age children. Vinyl fencing is newer. Mulch is required under any climbing equipment over 18 inches tall. All equipment should be approved for commercial childcare. The Child Care Weather Watch is consulted when outdoor play is questionable due to varying weather conditions.

CCNC Hayes conducted an Injury Prevention Checklist on the area. Repairs have been made since the inspection.

Center Transportation Arrangements/Field Trips:

The center does not provide transportation. If walking field trips are taken off church campus an extra staff is present to maintain field trip ratios. Emergency contacts or medications are taken.

Center Administrative Records:

The center is in compliance with regulations regarding required notices, postings, and required written policies provided to parents in the form of a parent handbook. Staff and child records are somewhat complete and well organized.

Child files are reviewed annually. Child physicals are present, as well as immunizations and other requirements such as emergency contacts, medical and dental information, pick up authorizations, etc. CCNC Hayes conducted a child record review in January 2024. Both physicals and immunizations were reviewed.

Staff files are reviewed annually. All fingerprints are up to date (due every 4 years). All employees must have updated Iowa Record Checks which are due every two years. Staff physicals, Mandatory Reporter training and professional development as well as universal precautions training was current. CCR&R can assist with arranging training. Administration has a tracking system in place that works well.

A no smoking sign was posted at the entrance to the facility. All required postings including mandatory reporter postings, license consultant information and the center license were posted in an area that could be read by staff and parents

Injury and accident reports are completed and sent home with parents when a child bites. The designated ill/injured area of the center is the Director's office.

When a child is suspected of having a communicable disease or condition such as, but not limited to, chicken pox, German measles, infectious hepatitis, measles, mumps, lice, ringworm of the scalp, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria or meningitis, the Center posts at the entry so that parents are aware.

Emergency numbers including 911 and Poison Control are posted near telephones in each room.

Infant Sheets are updated throughout the day. The sheets met all requirements, including activities for the day. Curriculum is utilized daily. CCR&R can assist with curriculum development and implementation in the future if necessary.

Annual emergency procedures training are conducted annually. Documentation is present signed and dated by staff.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center Director has met with Child Care Nurse Consultant Amy Hayes (Iowa Department of Public Health) prior to becoming licensed in this building.
The center Director has met with Child Care Consultant Jodi Norton and Malia Love (Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral) regularly prior to becoming licensed in this building.
The center implements many best practices in each room. The center ratio often exceeds licensing expectations allowing more one on one time with children and staff. This is duly noted.

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

1. 109.12(4): Sufficient toilet articles are provided for handwashing. Sufficient and safe indoor play equipment, materials, and furniture that conforms with CPSC or ASTM. Play equipment, materials, and furniture meet the developmental, activity, and special needs of the children .Room's arrangement does not obstruct the direct observation of children. Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap. Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing is maintained between equipment to reduce transmission of disease and allow ease of movement by children and staff to respond to activities and care needs. Sanitary procedures are followed for use and storage of personal hygiene articles.

Concern: mulch is low beneath climbing equipment This has been CORRECTED as of June 2024

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon this review, it is recommended that this center remain in Full licensing status. The center is directed to continue to monitor day to day practice and adjust accordingly to continue to ensure licensing rule is met consistently. It is important to note, all HHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

HHS encourages you to contact your local nurse consultant Amy Hayes. Child Care Nurse Consultants work 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. Please visit the following website for more information. http://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants

HHS encourages you to contact Child Care Resource and Referral consultant Malia Love. They offer centers assistance with meeting the HHS regulations, QRS, infant/toddler concerns, room arrangement and environment, developmental concerns, Best Practice information, CDA assistance, or any questions or concerns you may have. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.iowaccrr.org CCR&R worked frequently with the center.

Consultant Love provided the following this paste year:

11/04/2024-I met with the program to discuss next steps now that they have permission to open. We looked at their CCA provider account and I helped both the director and the facility manager get accounts set up. I follow up our visit with an email attaching the fillable child files and information about the ECI Board.

11/11/2024-Followed up with program to make sure that they had access to their CCA and i-Power accounts and that things were running smoothly, they said they did and things were going well.

1/27/2025-Reached out to offer my support and see how things were going, they let me know that they were running smoothly and that the program administrator (Pastor Diane) was working on learning the rules and regulations,

2/6/2025-Assisted the program with a mini grant so they could get quality improvement items. Advised them to speak with

CCNC Amy Hayes if they were looking at getting fall surfacing for outdoor play spaces.

2/11/2025-While working on mini grant ideas, I let the program know that no one other than authorized/approved daycare staff should have access to files when they asked about having someone come in to do paperwork type duties.

2/20/2025-I met with the program and offered my support with their mini grant through the ECI board. We discussed their plans for the calm down room they were creating and what items they were asking for. While there we briefly discussed upcoming Lee Co events, the potential interest in CACFP and the licensing visit. I offered to do a prep walk through with them prior to the visit.

2/24/2025-Answered questions about provider physical and how often they needed updated. I provided the program with the physical form.

I have been in contact with the program roughly once a month if not more since but the last couple of months have been working on Growing Iowa Grant money and enrolling staff in training events.

Malia Love
Child Care Consultant
Child Care Resource & Referral of Southeast Iowa
Community Action of Eastern Iowa
mlove@caeiowa.org

T: 563-271-0643
500 E 59th St.| Davenport, IA 52807| www.iowaccrr.org
Serving 19 Counties

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

Facebook | Instagram | YouTube | News | Training

Center staff and administration should continue to meet with CCR&R and IDPH on a regular basis

*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.