Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Loving Hands Nursery

Provider No.: 30257

Address: 201 E Nebraska St, Algona, IA, 50511

County: Kossuth

Director's Name: Ashley Grindberg

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5153952273

E-Mail: lovinghandsnursery@netamumail.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/01/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2024 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/03/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [ ] Year-Round
- [X] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	13		14	18	45
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Loving Hands Nursery on 10-01-25 where I met with center director Ashley Grindberg. Ashley took over the director position with the start of the 2023 school year and is well qualified for the position with a masters degree in school counseling and prior experience working with children in various capacities. The program is operated as a short term respite service 3 days a week for 2.5 hours during the school year and is fully funded by grants so that there is no cost to the families that attend. The program is located in the Algona First United Methodist Church but is operated independently of the church under a separate board of directors. There are approximately 25 children enrolled in the program served by 6 staff and 3 volunteers. The center does establish a daily limit based on capacity limitations on a first come first served basis. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remain the same as in prior visits. The physical facilities were observed to be clean and in good repair. The program makes use of three classrooms but the third room is used more for over-flow with older preschool and school age children when needed and was not in use on the day of my visit. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a limited view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The two main programming rooms have doors that provide direct secondary egress to the outdoors. Each room has a sink in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. The two main classrooms have a pass-through bathroom, and diaper changing stations so that children do not need to leave the room. Each room is divided into activity centers through the use of furnishings, and play structures that are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Good interactions were observed on the day of the visit with the staff in both classrooms being actively engaged with the children both during informal activities such as self-directed center play, and in more formal teacher lead group activities such as reading stories, and music and movement activities. The program does use a general theme based curriculum and the teachers do maintain a focus engaging in activities to help the children build motor, social, and cognitive skills. The center does follow a schedule making use of routines, directions, and positive recognition that were all very effective in creating an environment where there were no behavioral problems. All staff used calm and encouraging tones of voice when talking to the children

Good health and safety practices were observed during the time of my visit. All children and staff were directed to wash their hands upon arrival at the center, and at other times as required such as prior to snack service. There were no children needing a diaper change during the time of the visit but the staff in the infant room have been observed in prior visits implementing the required procedures. Cleaning practices were reviewed as the center had several options for cleaning

products. It was observed that one of the cleaning products being used to sanitize tables in the older preschool age classroom did identify that if being used on food contact surfaces a potable water rinse was required. The staff did complete the rinsing procedure when this was pointed out, and it was recommended that the center use one of the alternative products available that does not require that additional step. There were no children with any identified allergies, health concerns, or taking any medications but the center does have policies in place should it be needed in the future. First aid kits were present in the classrooms and were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs. Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, personal belongings and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children.

The center does not have a traditional playground but an interior court yard is available for outdoor play and the limited hours of operation also reduce the need for a dedicated outdoor play area. The outdoor play area does not have any climbing structures but other toys are taken out for the children to play with if needed. The courtyard is fully enclosed by the building. Shade is provided by the building.

Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided. Good food storage practices were observed with all food items placed in sealed containers once the original packaging seal had been broken. I was able to observe the snack service and good food service practices were in place with staff washing their hands and wearing food service gloves. The center does maintain a calendar of snack items that are provided which does show a good variety of credible snack options. The staff did not eat with the children but did provide supervision at the table.

Administrative records were reviewed and all required notices No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were posted on a bulletin board that was readily accessible to parents and visitors. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, handwashing, diapering, daily schedule, and program curriculum were also present. All child files were reviewed and each contained all required documentation. All staff files were reviewed and again were found to contain all required information. Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required certifications. The center is participating in the IQ4K program which seeks to implement best practice recommendations and is rated as a Level 1 center on an a possible 5 level scale with 5 being the highest rating level.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that:Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free.Sufficient lighting shall be provided.Sufficient ventilation.Sufficient heating.Sufficient cooling.Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
-- The water temperature of the handwashing sinks was measured to be 131 deg. F. which can result in instant scald burns. Water temperatures for sinks used for handwashing shall not exceed 120 deg. F. when measured at the spigot with only the hot water tap turned on.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

Ashley provided confirmation that the water temperatures had been adjusted to higher temperatures for a church sponsored event and that the church office would contact the custodians to adjust the temperature to acceptable levels.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license will remain in effect at this time. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/15/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.