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

**Name of Center:** Loving Arms Children's Center **Enrollment:** 42 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27920

**Street:** 6270 Merle Hay Rd **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

**Mailing Address:** 6270 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA, 50131

**Director's Name:** Heather Nelson **Phone Number:** 515-270-0150

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Dejah Roman **E-Mail:** Director@LovingArmsChildrensCenter.com

**Date(s) of Visit:** 10-25-2023

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-23-2019

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

**Date Inspected:** 10-06-2022

**Comments :** Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

**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 X Other 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* |
|---|---|---|---|

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 24 | 36 | 36 | 30 | 126 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** 3

| RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE: | |
|---|---|
| X | **FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025 |
| | **PROVISIONAL** license from |
| | **DENIAL** of initial application |
| | **SUSPENSION** of license |
| | **REVOCATION** of license |

**Licensing Consultant:** Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-31-2023

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

An unannounced full licensing visit was completed 10-25-23. Present for this visit was staff Paige; Assistant Director Dejah Roman was on site but in ratio, later joining for part of the visit; then Director Heather Nelson was present for part of the visit.

Loving Arms Children's Center opened in 2001. Heather Nelson became interim direct 8/2023 and will begin as director soon. Heather has been in the director role since 2002 at another center. She has several years of child care experience. Elizabeth Lancaster became the On-Site Supervisor in October of 2021. Dejah Roman was added as an on-site supervisor in September of 2022 then assistant director 5/2023. Dejah has 14 prior years of childcare experience. Both met criteria qualification for their positions.

The center provides care to children ages 6 weeks up to school age, Monday through Friday 6:45AM to 5:30PM; Monday through Friday. The school age program is only provided in the summer, not during the school year. The center is operated on one-half of a building connected to the church. There is a secure entrance to the center and the church has another entrance.

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

Room observations: The center has eight enclosed classrooms. Rooms were in ratio. The children were resting when the visit took place so no observations of handwashing; however handwashing posters were posted. The center uses lesson plans in the classrooms that center around themes for development. The centers/activities were stored in an organized fashion for the rest period, containing a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. The center uses soapy water and industrial hydrogen peroxide for cleaning/sanitation. There was discussion that deep cleaning was needed for the changing tables, including under mats on the changing tables.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen that is shared with the church and located on the lower level of the church. Meals are prepared by a dedicated cook; and served family-style in the classrooms by staff. The center is not on a food program and does follow CACFP guidelines on their menus. The menu is rotated every 5 weeks. The kitchen, dry storage and refrigeration were clean/organized. The microwave did need wiped down.

Health and Safety: When Medications are needed; they are stored in the assistant director's office, secured. This center was observed to have children with strong allergies to foods; Allergies were posted in the rooms-under a cover marked "ALLERGIES", where only staff would be able to view the children's names/emergency actions needed etc. First aid kits are in each room; there is an extended supply/emergency kit available in a rolling bin and kept secured. Tornado and Fire escape plans are posted. Drills are documented to have been completed monthly. Radon testing occurred 9/2023, all rooms tested below 4.0 cutoff. The heating/cooling systems are maintained by the church and checked each October. There are carbon monoxide detectors in the halls adjacent to classrooms.

Playground--the playground is separated into ages and enclosed with chain link fencing. Surface is grass and shade is natural. Play structures have cushion safety surfacing of wood chips. The center is able to use the sanctuary in the adjoining church for large motor play when the weather does not allow the children to go outside. Playground checks were documented to have occurred monthly. There were not obvious safety concerns with the playground.

Transportation/Field trips: The center does not provide transportation. Field trips are walking and take place in the summer.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans, and non-smoking signs is posted. Four child files were reviewed; with one file missing immunization records. Four employee files were reviewed and contained all the required information.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center uses a positive behavior method for the children. Many staff are trained in PBIS.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a good working relationship with the church.

The center has a secure entrance.

There are staff pictures in the main hallway.

The uses an Application called the Hi Momma App to assist with communication. There is a Kindle in every classroom.

The center has camera system for the classrooms and these camera record.

The center put in a new playground structure and new surfacing this past year and new sod this year on part of the playground.

The center has a good core group of staff, they are a cohesive team and support each other.

The center is able to offer health benefits to staff and a retirement package.

The center receives strong support from the Board of Directors and the church.

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

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs.
-files need reviewed by parents and updated at least annually, and when changes occur.

109.9(3): Signed and dated Iowa immunization certificates are on file for each child enrolled.
Number missing: 1

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 space provided for dining. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. sufficient cooling. Sufficient bathroom and diapering facilities. Equipment, including kitchen appliances, are maintained so as not to result in burns, shock, or injury to children. Sanitation and safety procedures for the center are developed and implemented to reduce risk or injury or harm to children and reduce transmission of disease.
-This center uses soapy water and industrial hydrogen peroxide to clean/sanitize. Deep cleaning and maintaining of cleanliness on diaper changing tables/under mats is necessary. Discussion took place with staff regarding this need.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Radon testing is due every two years and the last test was completed in September on 2023. Radon levels at that time were below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected every fall, in October.

Staff was observed to be responsive and involved with the children's activities, providing nurturing responses.

*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.