Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Friends of Living Faith

Provider No.: 28409

Address: 2180 NW 142nd St, Clive, IA, 50325

County: Polk

Director's Name: Sandy Nelson

On-Site Supervisor: Amanda Wallace, Elizabeth Freeman, Abbie Sharp

Phone Number: 5155565576

E-Mail: sandy.littlefriends@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/30/2026

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/05/2025

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

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:00 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	20	154	0	174
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An off-year inspection was conducted on 9/30/26. On-site supervisor, Amanda Wallace, was present throughout this inspection.

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.

Little Friends of Living Faith is located in the Living Faith Lutheran Church in Clive, IA in a new wing that was constructed in early 2024. Sandy Nelson is the director. Sandy has been the director since 2003 when the center first opened. Sandy has her National Administration Credential as well as an AAS degree in Early Childhood Development. Sandy also has her BA degree. The on-site supervisors are Amanda Wallace, Elizabeth Freeman, and Abbie Sharp. All three individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisor. The center is overseen by the church pastor and there is also a church Board.

The center serves children ages two through five years of age Monday through Friday and now for most of the calendar year. There are different options for parents to choose from on when their child attends from all day programming to just preschool hours (9:00am - 1:00pm). The center utilizes the Wee Learn Curriculum, Learning Without Tears Curriculum, and the Haggarty Phonics Curriculum with children. Total child enrollment on the day of the inspection was 100 children.

There are a total of nine classrooms. The smaller classroom is used more as a resource classroom for professionals working one on one with children. The capacity of the classrooms are as follows:

Room 212 has a capacity of 20 children.
Room 213 has a capacity if 21 children.
Room 214 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 215 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 217 has a capacity of 7 children.
Room 218 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 219 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 220 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 221 has a capacity of 21 children.

NUTRITION: The center serves breakfast and a PM snack to children. Parents are responsible for bringing their child's lunches throughout the week. Parents are given a list of what to bring based off of the licensing CACFP requirements for these lunches. The center employs a cook and they have a full kitchen. Menus are posted for the month. All food menu items met CACFP requirements. The center also participates in CACFP. All food storage was sufficient.

TRANSPORTATION/FIELD TRIPS: The center does not transport. Usually, only one or two field trips are taken per year. Parents are responsible for providing transportation for their child to the field trip destinations. The center will bring a first-aid kit and children's emergency contacts. The program will also invite agencies into the program for presentations to children throughout the year.

PLAYGROUND: The playgrounds are entirely fenced in and consist concrete areas (sidewalks), grassy areas, as well as some smaller climbing structure playground items. All equipment observed appeared to be in good working order. The building provides some shade. Monthly playground inspections are being conducted.

During the inspection, all classrooms were observed. Several classrooms were taking turns using the indoor space for large motor activities since the weather didn't permit outdoor play. In other classrooms, children were observed washing their hands and then praying with their teachers before sitting down for lunch. In a couple of other classrooms, large group activities and writing activities were being facilitated by staff as children were learning their letters. Toys, tables, cots, and other equipment in classrooms are being cleaned and sanitized (diapering tables disinfected after each use) daily. Children questioned gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

For more challenging child behaviors, the director and on-site supervisors make it a point to assist in classrooms as needed or take children with them to the office and/or calm down room. There are some staff whose roles are specifically geared towards assisting children having behavioral issues. Communication and teamwork is stressed between all parties and between each other (staff, parents, children). The center also has community supports in place if needed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program has a good working relationship with other church personnel.

The center participates in IQ4K. This is a voluntary program and based on best practice activities. This center is also involved with ITERS and ECERS.

Parent participation is highly encouraged through the parent advisory team the director established. There is at least one and up to three parent teacher conferences a year. The center also has online communication on a regular basis with parents through an intranet system called, "On Realm". The center also uses the Brightwheel application.

The center reportedly has a good working relationship with the families they serve based on recent feedback.

Staff communication is stressed. Each staff member has a walkie-talkie for communication.

Weekly staff meetings are held.

There is a secure entrance into the center during the program's hours of operations. The center also has security cameras.

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There continues to be a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together.

The center has an outdoor garden.

The center has been open for 23 years.

Enrollment remains steady.

The center employs a full-time cook. The center also participates in CACFP.

Custodial staff clean and disinfect the center classrooms nightly for additional cleaning.

There is a lot of natural lighting within the center.

There is an indoor large motor space for when weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.
One record check observed wasn't completed all the way through. The director emailed this consultant after the inspection stating she has corrected this issue.

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last tested 9/3/24 - 9/5/24. Levels came back 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. IT WAS NOTED ONLY TWO TESTS WERE COMPLETED, ONE AT EACH END OF THE WING. IN THE FUTURE, ALL CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE TESTED.

The annual HVAC inspection was last done on 8/17/26.

The carbon monoxide detector is built into the building when the new addition was constructed in 2024.

I-Power was again discussed at the inspection. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training certificates/hours continue to be uploaded.

It was noted that one child needs to have their immunization records transferred over to a State of Iowa approved form. It was also noted that another child is within their 30 day grace period of needing another annual physical.

The CACFP smart phone app was shared with an on-site supervisor and a couple of staff members during the inspection.

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Date: 09/30/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

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**.