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

Name of Center: Ashworth Learning Center **Enrollment:** 106 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51448

Street: 5300 Ashworth Road **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5300 Ashworth RD, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Kerri Clark **Phone Number:** 515-481-5437

On-Site Supervisor(s): Razan Jaber (Jordan) **E-Mail:** kerri@ashworth.center

Date(s) of Visit: 07-24-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 07-08-2025

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

Date Inspected: 03-10-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. For licensing, these inspections are due every three years. 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: X Profit 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	41	17	72	0	130
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 3

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 09-01-2025 to 09-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-25-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing inspection visit was conducted on 7/24/25. The director and the on-site supervisor were both present throughout 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.

Ashworth Learning Center is a center located in West Des Moines, IA that was given permission to open on 8/9/21. The center is located within a wing of the Ashworth Road Baptist Church on the main and lower levels of the building. The center serves children six weeks in age through five years in age using the Frog Street Learning Curriculum. There are a total of nine classrooms. Capacity of the main level classrooms in order are 22, 8, 17 on one side and then 9, 9, and 15 on the other side. The lower level classrooms have a capacity of 24, 10, and 16.

The center is owned by the church. The center is open Monday - Friday and year-round. The center director is Kerri Clark. Kerri has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working in child care. Razan Jaber (Jordan) is the new on-site supervisor. Razan has a Bachelor's degree as well as past experience working in child care.

During the visit, children were observed being held, playing downstairs in the indoor gym, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations set up in classrooms. Staff were spaced out and attentive to children. Staff and children gave specific answers as to where they relocate to for monthly fire and tornado drills.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center meets a need in the community. Enrollment remains steady.

The center uses an electronic app (Bright Wheel) for daily sheets and another form of communication with parents.

There is a secure entrance into the center. There are also security cameras in classrooms.

The director and on-site supervisor are organized and have past experience working in child care.

The center was very clean.

The director feels she has a good staff with a good mix of experience. Staff reportedly work well with each other and communication between staff is good. Staff are supportive of each other.

Monthly staff meetings are held.

The center has purchased some new kitchen appliances over the past year. The center has also hired an office manager.

The center participates in CACFP.

The center utilizes their nurse consultant and CCR&R consultant as needed.

The center has good community supports.

Staff stated they appreciate the director and her openness with them and leadership. Staff enjoy their jobs.

The center participates in IQ4K which is voluntary program based on best practice.

There is a staff "shout out" board to recognize good work.

There are several bi-lingual staff.

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

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions. Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained. Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
There were two staff that were not fully completed with the Essentials training and are no past 90 days.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last conducted 10/28/21 - 11/1/21. 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 furnace and fuel burning appliances are generally serviced two times a year and the last invoice on file was from 6/27/25.

The center is not currently doing field trips. If they do so in the future, they will be walking field trips around the surrounding area or they may contact with the school district to take a bus for field trips not within walking distance. The center does bring in presenters for children.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. Staff should continue to upload their professional development training hours into I - Power.

It was noted that the center still has a work order in for their playground for one small spot where the poured in place rubber surfacing is damaged. The center will be adding more mulch in the near future. It is also recommended that outdoor playground mats be purchased for the bottom of the slides. This will help preserve wood chip depth and surfacing.

A diapering poster should be posted by the diapering table on the lower level restroom that is not currently being used in the event it is needed in the future.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.