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

Name of Center: A Mothers Love Childcare Center **Enrollment:** 45 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 50777

Street: 5821 C St SW **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52404 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 5821 C St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

Director's Name: Elease Jones **Phone Number:** 319-382-8600

On-Site Supervisor(s): Elease Jones **E-Mail:** eleasejones@amotherslovesw.com

Date(s) of Visit: 02-14-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

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

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

Date Inspected: 08-16-2022

Comments :

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*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	40	19	19	47	125
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 2

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2022 to 03-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 02-17-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A Mother's Love Childcare Center was granted permission to open on 10/14/2019. A Mother's Love Childcare Center operates year-round, Monday through Friday 5:30am to 6:00pm. The program serves children age infant through school-age. Current enrollment is 45.

The program's owner/director/on-site supervisor is Elease Jones. Prior to opening a licensed childcare center, Ms. Jones operated a full-time registered childcare home. Ms. Jones continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 2/14/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

A Mother's Love Childcare Center offers a variety of childcare options to help meet the needs of families and children in the community. The program accepts a variety of funding sources. In October 2023, A Mother's Love Childcare Center will be celebrating their 4th year of business.

A Mother's Love Childcare Center has a history of participation in quality initiatives including NAPSACC, CACFP, local quality initiatives and QRS. The program achieved QRS 2-Star.

A Mother's Love Childcare Center has the following website: https://amotherslovesw.com/. The program also sponsors a social media page.

The mission of A Mother's Love Childcare Center is "...to nurture our children and empower them with a sound foundation by providing quality childcare that is diverse and understanding..."

Founding original owner/director Ms. Jones is a local entrepreneur invested in the city of Cedar Rapids and surrounding community. Ms. Jones is knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as her own program's policies and procedures. Ms. Jones is organized and has noteworthy systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner. As a result, the program experiences smooth daily operations.

Since the last monitoring visit, the program has retained as well as hired some new staff. Licensing observed areas in the center celebrating an Employee of the Month and Employee of the Week. A hallway bulletin board acknowledges staff birthdays as well as an area for management and families to "Shout Out" notes of gratitude to employees.
Ms. Jones discussed how the center closes 4 days each year for staff to participate in professional development as well as refresh their classrooms.

Building and grounds are well-maintained. Kitchen is spacious and sanitary. Ms. Jones discussed working with a new vendor and obtaining some different food items for children to try and enjoy. Ms. Jones currently rents the West side of the

building to house her childcare. The East side of the building has four rooms (or two suites with interior adjoining doors) that have been vacant since the childcare commenced operations October 2019. At times, Ms. Jones does use the front East room as large gross motor space on inclement weather days. Ms. Jones indicated she collaborates with her landlord regarding building usage, maintenance and upkeep. Ms. Jones also reported having her own building maintenance person on staff. These persons all help ensure the childcare space is sanitary and hazard free each day.

A Mother's Love Childcare Center has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the historic 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm and 2019 pandemic.

A Mother's Love Childcare Center continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information centers, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. The program enjoys classroom door decorating contests.

Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Since the last review, the program obtained a new outdoor climbing structure. Materials are organized and accessible to children. Curriculum incorporates learning through play and teacher inspired ideas. Curriculum also includes on-site guest speakers and off-site field trips (e.g. local library, Jones Park, Newbo, splash pads, Children's Museum, local pumpkin patch, Marion pool). Ms. Jones discussed future goals of finding a specific accredited curriculum that includes social emotional components.

A Mother's Love Childcare Center collaborates well with community partners including CCR&R, local school districts, AEA, local CART program, local businesses, and health professionals.

Each child is engaged in a daily health check upon arrival for early detection of apparent illness, communicable disease, or unusual condition or behavior which may adversely affect the child or the group. Staff were observed encouraging and engaging in hand washing at all levels. The program has policies and procedures in place for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing. Cleaning supplies as well as cleaning checklists/reminders were observed in various areas on-site.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study for the month included Valentines and winter season. Several clever Valentine's Day inspired art projects were observed throughout the room (e.g. "Bee My Valentine")! Activities observed during the visit were many (e.g. infant cares, sign language with 2yo children, circle group discussion, center play, indoor large gross motor). Children have access to an array of materials (e.g. books, puzzles, games, imaginative play options, building materials, crafts) that encourage innovative play with opportunities for problem solving and creativity. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean up activities, food service rituals) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Throughout the classrooms, staff were overheard providing children with many words of encouragement and redirection when needed. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue to each room's lesson plans are updated, secondary exits remain unobstructed, and electrical outlets throughout the building are covered.

Please conduct updated radon testing and forward results to licenisng.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit.

*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.