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

Name of Center: Little Voyagers **Enrollment:** 60 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 51052

Street: 2700 Westown PKWY STE 140 **City:** West Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50266 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 2700 Westown PKWY STE 140, West Des Moines, IA, 50266

Director's Name: Erin Davis **Phone Number:** 515-447-8097

On-Site Supervisor(s): Samantha Hildebrand and Elizabeth Lear **E-Mail:** littlevoyagersia@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-10-2024

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:** 06-11-2024

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

Date Inspected: 02-07-2024

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal.

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 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	14	36	16	90
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2024 to 08-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 07-11-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 7/10/24. The owner/director was 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.

Little Voyagers is a child care program located in West Des Moines, IA that was given permission to open on 5/1/20. This center is a new center under a new name (previously The Learning Loft) and new location (previously located in Urbandale, IA). The center serves children six weeks in age through 12 years in age. Staff use the learning curriculum Learning Every Day. There are a total of five classrooms.

The owner/director of the program is Erin Davis. Erin has her AA degree in Early Childhood Education and has a number of years' worth of experience working in child care. The on-site supervisors are Samantha Hildebrand and Elizabeth Lear. Both individuals meet the qualifications as on-site supervisors.

During the visit, children were observed playing on the playground, coming in from the outside playground, napping in cribs, and napping on cots. Staff were engaged with children and cot/crib spacing was sufficient upon observation.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The director has many years of experience working in child care. The director continues to be organized. Staff and child files were organized.

There are many tenured staff that work at this center. The owner stated she had a good group working for her.

Staff reportedly work well together.

The center uses the Bright Wheels and DoJo apps for better communication with parents.

The center is pursuing IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice.

Several classrooms and the interior hallways have been painted within the past year.

Some playground renovations have been made over the past year.

The center continues to move towards more electronic filing .

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

109.9(2)b: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care.
Number not in compliance for medical: 0
Number not in compliance for dental: 1
Information lacking: All children, regardless of age, need to have on file a doctor and a dentist. The name, address, and phone number should be included.

109.11(7)b: Centers at ground level that use basement area as program space, or have a basement beneath program space: Testing and plan for remedy of radon is conducted.
Radon testing is again past due (was due in 1/2023). The owner plans to test for radon in all classrooms over the Labor Day Weekend. The center did purchase a radon detector, but actual radon testing is needed.

109.12(4): Individual covered mats, beds, or cots, and appropriate bedding is provided for all children who nap. Procedures are developed and implemented to maintain equipment and materials in a sanitary manner.
1. Sheets or another light blanket/covering is needed for cots when children are napping. Some children did not have sheets or another on their cots.
2. Tables should be cleaned and sanitized after meals.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing is past due as it was due in 1/2023. In 3/2023, radon testing changed where if center are below the 4.0 cutoff in all classrooms, testing can move to every five years so long as levels always remain below 4.0. If levels are 4.0 or higher, a mitigation plan is needed, retesting, and the center would move back to needing to test at least temporarily to every two years. At the testing in 1/2023, only one classroom was tested. THE OWNER PLANS TO TEST ALL CLASSROOMS FOR RADON OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2024.

The annual HVAC inspection was last completed 3/4/24.

The center has a van for transporting children to school and for field trips. Children Kindergarten and older are eligible for field trips.

IQ4K and I - Power were again discussed at the visit. The center is working on their IQ4K application which is a voluntary program based on best practice. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and staff are uploading training into I - Power.

Another hand washing sign should be posted at the group of sinks across from the group of sinks that did have a hand washing posting.

It is recommended that if a child still needs to be in a crib and is older than 12 months, that still no blankets be used as required for children under 12 months of age so that there is no confusion among staff and children who nap in cribs.

It is recommended Boppy pillows not be used as it is related to safe sleep practices.

The updated monthly playground inspection was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

The center should inquire if Brightwheel will add an annual update for field trips and photographs.

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.