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, Elizabeth Lear, Mia Davis **E-Mail:** littlevoyagersia@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 07-08-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **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: 03-19-2025

Comments : West Des Moines Fire Marshal. Licensing requires these inspections are done at least 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 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: 2

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:** 07-09-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year inspection visit was conducted on 7/8/25. The owner/director was present throughout the visit as was one of the on-site supervisors, Mia Davis.

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 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, Elizabeth Lear, and Mia Davis. All three individuals meet the qualifications as on-site supervisors.

During the visit, some children were observed napping in cribs and on cots. Other children were being held while being bottle fed, having tummy time, and engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. School-age 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 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.

Center management stated they were proud of the learning curriculum they use with children. The curriculum is more detailed and planned monthly.

The center uses the Bright Wheel and DoJo apps for increased communication with parents and tracking forms.

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

Over the past year, the center has purchased some new classroom equipment.

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

109.9(1)a: All files contain: Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record check. Copy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable. Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request. Copies of national criminal history check results. Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
16 and 17 year old staff also need to be fingerprinted.

109.11(2)b: Program space must meet the following conditions :Room must be arranged so as not to obstruct the direct observation of children by staff. Individual covered mats, bed, or cots and appropriate bedding will be provided for all children who nap. Equipment and materials are maintained in a sanitary manner. Sufficient spacing must be maintained. The center will have sufficient toilet articles for each child for hand washing.
1. When in storage, children's bedding should not be touching other children's bedding.
2. All children who nap, there needs to be a sheet or another blanket between the child and the cot. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Sufficient lighting shall be provided. Sufficient ventilation. Sufficient heating. Sufficient cooling. Equipment placed in the program area is maintained so as not to result in injury to the children.
1. It was too dark initially in the two year old classroom where children were napping.
2. There was also a dangling cord in this classroom that needed to be more securely fastened to the wall or tucked behind a bookshelf.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was completed in all classrooms 6/12/25 - 6/26/25. 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 annual HVAC inspection was last completed 4/11/25.

The center has a van for transporting children to school and for field trips. Only school-age children are eligible to go on field trips.

I - Power was discussed at the inspection visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded. Mandatory Reporter and First-Aid/CPR also will need to be uploaded.

The Boppy pillows should be removed from the infant classroom.

It was noted that the infant classroom door was sticking some.

The center should monitor the bottom of one area of the playground fence. If this continues to bow, it will need to be repaired/replaced.

The center will need to update their out of town evacuation plan in their written Emergency Preparedness Plan.

*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.