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

Name of Center: Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare **Enrollment:** 142 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 25069

Street: 2424 42nd St NE **City:** Cedar Rapids Iowa **Zip** 52402 **County:** Linn

Mailing Address: 2424 42nd St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402

Director's Name: Dawn Dupont **Phone Number:** 319-393-8189

On-Site Supervisor(s): Dawn Dupont **E-Mail:** ddupont@lovelylane.org

Date(s) of Visit: 10-16-2023

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: 09-13-2022

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: 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		12	41	78	131
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2022 to 11-01-2024
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons **Date:** 10-27-2023

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

Not applicable.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

Lovely Lane United Methodist Church Children's Weekday Ministries operates the following two licensed childcare programs in the community: Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare and Trinity Lane Preschool. These childcare programs have been in operation for several years. Specifically, this monitoring report pertains to Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare. Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare is located inside Lovely Lane United Methodist Church. Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare includes two through four-year-old preschool, Before & After School Enrichment (BASE), and a summer childcare program. The 4-year-old statewide voluntary preschool program is part of the DHS license. Current enrollment is 142.

The multi-site director of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church Children's Weekday Ministries including Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare and Trinity Lane Preschool is Dawn Dupont. Ms. Dupont has been the multi-site director since March, 2020. Ms. Dupont has a BA in business/marketing, many years experience working with children, and continues to participate in much child development related training.

On 10/16/2023, program space was observed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare is a well established program offering a Christian preschool and childcare services to help meet the educational needs of families and children. The program is located in a predominantly urban community adjacent an elementary school and high school.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare has the following website for families and persons in the community learn more about their programs: https://www.lovelylane.org/childrens-weekday-ministries/. The program also sponsors a private social media page for enrolled families.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare's vision "...is to be a diverse church where faithful disciplines of Jesus Christ grow in spirit and nurture one another and respond to human need...believe that children learn best through exploration in their environment..."

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare has a history of participation in quality initiatives. Ms. Dupont discussed possible future goals related to IQ4K participation, decreasing food costs, expanding wrap care for preschool-age children, outdoor playground improvements, and continuing to attract and retain staff.

Multi-site director Ms. Dupont is currently celebrating her 3rd year as director of both Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare and Trinity Lane Preschool. Congratulations! Ms. Dupont has years of experience working with children and managing a childcare program. Ms. Dupont has been a past evaluator for a local quality initiative and continues to be a mentor to other child care programs. The program's management team 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. Ms. Dupont and staff are knowledgeable of licensing guidelines as well as their own program's policies and procedures.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare continues to retain seasoned employees. Staff reported celebrating 18 years and 8 years with the program. Staff appreciation and recognition events continue to be part of the program's successful operations.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare is a ministry of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church and is governed by an advisory board of directors. Church administration, church custodial staff, and the board help ensure the program space is sanitary and hazard free each day. Management and staff discussed being grateful for a particular church perisher acknowledging how he has created such a wonderful experience for the childcare children through the care and keeping of on-site memorials, flowers and the seasonal pumpkin patch!

Building and grounds are in good repair. Since the last review, the church obtained a new stove and dishwasher in which the childcare is able to access. Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare has also continued to update furnishings and materials (e.g. egg-shaped comfy chairs, games, media devices). Classrooms continue to be arranged in a thoughtful manner with learning at the forefront. Children's accomplishments (e.g. 4yo spider plate art, purple paper ghosts) are displayed in various areas of the program space. The program's primary curriculum is Creative Curriculum incorporating on-site guest speakers, enrichment experiences, summer camp experiences, and teacher inspired ideas. Ms. Dupont discussed their 2023 successful summer program with high enrollment.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare continues efforts at optimal communication between the program/staff and families. The program has organized parent-staff/program information areas, offers regular program newsletters, utilizes technological communication resources, and supports family programming activities. The program has a history of offering a variety of special events family events including family orientation, family nights, a fall open house, Fun Fridays, staff/family conferences, preschool graduation celebration, and end of the summer camp celebration. Ms. Dupont and staff talked about the positive feedback they receive from families.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare has emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. The program successfully navigated through the 2008 historic Linn County flood, 2019 Polar Vortex, 2019 health (COVID-19) pandemic, 8/10/2020 Derecho Storm event and 2023 compromised air quality incidents. It's also noted that Trinity Lane Preschool and Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare had to seek relocation 6 times in approximately 24 months.

Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare collaborates well with those throughout the community including local school districts, early access persons, local businesses, CCR&R, and health professionals. Lovely Lane Preschool and Daycare continues to successfully partner with the Cedar Rapids Community School District to provide a 4-year-old statewide voluntary preschool program.

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. The program has policies and procedures in place for hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Staff were able to verbalize and engage in these processes. Cleaning checklists and daily sanitation reminders were observed to be posted in various areas of the center.

On the day of the monitoring visit, staff were nurturing and attentive to the children's needs. Areas of study included color orange, pumpkins, spiders and fall season. Staff were observed warmly greeting families and children upon arrival as well as those arriving/departing for mid-day pick-up. Children had access to an array of materials (e.g. books, imaginative play options, crafts, sensory items, building materials) that encouraged innovative play. Activities observed were many including group circle event (e.g. book reading "Spookley and the Pumpkin Jamboree"), outdoor large gross motor play and center play experiences (e.g. board games, school-age "coffee shop", Little People, crafts, dress-up, shifting and funneling of sand, sensory work with play dough). A clever staff created pumpkin patch play experience was noted as being enjoyed by children in the 3yo room (e.g. pumpkins, leaves, trick-or-treat baskets, pumpkin patch play foods - popcorn)! Staff provided a companionable presence allowing children to have many choices in their play experiences. Staff communicated well with children verbally, with picture cues and through modeling. Staff was observed offering one 4yo child reassurance and positive redirection as s/he expressed a strong desire to continue play after clean-up had already occurred. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, snack activities, indoor/outdoor movements) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. Children responded well to staff and appeared to be truly enjoying their day.

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

None noted.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The outdoor play area has been enjoyed by children for over 20 years and is now showing much ware. Licensing strongly supports considerations be made to update and replace outdoor equipment, surfacing, fencing and so on.

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The program's license remains in full force. 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.