Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Little Friends of Living Faith

Provider No.: 28409

Address: 2180 NW 142nd St, Clive, IA, 50325

County: Polk

Director's Name: Sandy Nelson

On-Site Supervisor: Amanda Wallace, Elizabeth Freeman, Abbie Sharp

Phone Number: 5155565576

E-Mail: sandy.littlefriends@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/23/2025

Licensing Period: 11/01/2025 to 11/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 05/05/2025

Comments: Clive Fire Marshal.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 4

- [X] Accrediation

Comments: The center participates in IQ4K which is a voluntary program based on best practice. They are currently in the process of renewing.

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [ ] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	0	20	154	0	174
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

A licensing inspection was conducted on 9/23/25. The 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 Friends of Living Faith is located in the Living Faith Lutheran Church in Clive, IA in a new wing that was constructed in early 2024. Sandy Nelson is the director. Sandy has been the director since 2003 when the center first opened. Sandy has her National Administration Credential as well as an AAS degree in Early Childhood Development. Sandy also has her BA degree. The on-site supervisors are Amanda Wallace, Elizabeth Freeman, and Abbie Sharp. All three individuals meet the qualifications for on-site supervisor. The center is overseen by the church pastor and there is also a church Board.

The center serves children ages two through five years of age Monday through Friday and now for most of the calendar year. There are different options for parents to choose from on when their child attends from all day programming to just preschool hours (9:00am - 1:00pm). The center utilizes the Wee Learn Curriculum, Learning Without Tears Curriculum, and the Heggarty Phonics Curriculum in their teaching of children.

There are a total of nine classrooms. The smaller classroom is used more as a resource classroom for professionals working one on one with children. The capacity of the classrooms are as follows:

Room 212 has a capacity of 20 children.
Room 213 has a capacity if 21 children.
Room 214 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 215 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 217 has a capacity of 7 children.
Room 218 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 219 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 220 has a capacity of 21 children.
Room 221 has a capacity of 21 children.

During the visit, children were observed in a variety of activities from having circle/group/calendar time being facilitated by staff, playing outside on the playground, playing with the learning stations set up in classrooms (blocks, dramatic play, art/writing, books, manipulative toys), washing hands, and then sitting down for snack. Staff were spaced out in classrooms

and on the playground and interacting with children. Sufficient classroom equipment was observed and classroom arrangement was sufficient.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The program has a good working relationship with other church personnel.

The center participates in IQ4K. This is a voluntary program and based on best practice activities. This center is also involved with ITERS and ECERS.

Parent participation is highly encouraged through the parent advisory team the director established. There is at least one and up to three parent teacher conferences a year. The center also has online communication on a regular basis with parents through an intranet system called, "On Realm". The center also uses the Brightwheel application.

Staff communication is stressed. Each staff member has a walkie-talkie for communication.

Weekly staff meetings are held.

There is a secure entrance into the center during the program's hours of operations. The center also has security cameras.

There continues to be a good mix of tenured and new staff. Staff reportedly work well together.

The center has an outdoor garden.

The center has been open for 22 years.

Enrollment has again increased over the past year indicating a need in the community.

The center employs a full-time cook.

Custodial staff clean and disinfect the center classrooms nightly.

There is a lot of natural lighting within the center.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.9(2)i: Preschool (for children five years and younger not enrolled in school): Physical exam report submitted within 30 days of admission, was obtained no more than 12 months prior to admission, is signed by a licensed MD, DO, Chiropractor, PA, or ARNP, and contains health history; present health status including allergies, medications, and acute/chronic conditions; and recommendations for continued care if necessary.
One child had a physical, but it was not signed by the doctor.

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.
Staff purses should be kept in an area that is inaccessible to children.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A.

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5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Radon testing was last tested 9/3/24 - 9/5/24. Levels came back 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. IT WAS NOTED ONLY TWO TESTS WERE COMPLETED, ONE AT EACH END OF THE WING. IN THE FUTURE, ALL CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE TESTED.

The annual HVAC inspection was last done on 8/5/25.

The carbon monoxide detector is built into the building when the new addition was constructed in 2024.

It was previously noted that for transportation/field trips, parents are responsible for providing transportation for their child to the field trip destinations. The program will also invite agencies into the program for presentations to children.

For nutrition, the center serves breakfast and a PM snack. Parents are responsible for bringing their child's lunches throughout the week. Parents are given a list of what to bring based off of licensing CACFP requirements.

Thermometers were needed in a couple of classroom freezers.

I-Power was discussed at the visit. It appears all staff have I - Power profiles and training is being uploaded.

It is recommended that parents list at least one additional authorized pickup/emergency contact other than themselves.x

It was noted that one staff member is slightly past due for first-aid/CPR re-certification, but this is scheduled for the near future.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended. The application and payment was made on 9/25/25.

Date: 09/26/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.