Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Loving Hands Nursery

Provider No.: 30257

Address: 201 E Nebraska St, Algona, IA, 50511

County: Kossuth

Director's Name: Ashley Grindberg

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 5153952273

E-Mail: lovinghandsnursery@netamumail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/30/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 09/28/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Tuesday			
Wednesday		9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Thursday		9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	
Friday			
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	13		14	18	45
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced annual visit was made to the Loving Hands Nursery on 09-30-26 where I met with center director Ashley Grindberg. Ashley took over the director position with the start of the 2023 school year and is well qualified for the position with a masters degree in school counseling and prior experience working with children in various capacities. The program is operated as a short term respite service 3 days a week for 2.5 hours during the school year and is fully funded by grants so that there is no cost to the families that attend. The program is located in the Algona First United Methodist Church but is operated independently of the church under a separate board of directors. There are 22 children enrolled in the program served by 6 staff and 3 volunteers. The center does establish a daily limit based on capacity limitations on a first come first served basis. All aspects of the program subject to Licensing Standards were reviewed during the visit.

The general layout of the building and classrooms remain the same as in prior visits. The physical facilities were observed to be clean and in good repair. The program makes use of three classrooms but the third room is used more for over-flow with older preschool and school age children when needed and was not in use on the day of my visit. Each room has windows along the exterior walls that provide natural light, a limited view of the outdoors, and ventilation. The two main programming rooms have doors that provide direct secondary egress to the outdoors. Each room has a sink in the classroom to facilitate hand washing. The two main classrooms have a pass-through bathroom, and diaper changing stations so that children do not need to leave the room. Each room is divided into activity centers through the use of furnishings, and play structures that are arranged so that they do not create any blind areas.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

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Interaction & Programming:
The program uses a general theme based curriculum which is posted on a notice board at the entry.
All teachers were observed to be actively engaged with the children presenting the planned curriculum and schedule.
During the visit one example was in the preschool room where the teacher read a story and then had discussion with the children helping them to relate the story to their own lives and situations.
Each of the teachers presented with a very positive and engaging attitude using simple reminders and redirection to encourage positive behavioral choices. Each of the teachers present have been with the center for several years and provide a strong continuity of programming.
Ratio was maintained as required by age with at least 2 teachers in each classroom.

Health & Safety:
I was not able to observe a diaper change during the time of the visit but the staff in the infant room have been observed in prior visits, and were able to identify the practices that are followed which are consistent with required procedures.
Changing stations, tables, and other materials were sanitized and disinfected as required and staff did follow good practices when using chemical cleaners. This included using a sanitizer that did not require a potable water rinse for food contact surfaces, and waiting for children to be out of the immediate area before using chemical cleaners.
First aid kits were present in the classrooms and were stocked with materials necessary to address most common first aid needs.
Chemical cleaners, first aid kits, personal belongings and other items that could present a safety risk to children were stored in areas where they were not accessible to children.
Appropriate cribs, and mats were present for children that nap.
Toys and materials present were in good repair and appropriate to the ages of the children present.

Playground:
The center does not have a traditional playground but an interior court yard is available for outdoor play. The limited hours of operation also reduce the need for a dedicated outdoor play area.
The outdoor play area does not have any climbing structures but other toys can be taken out for the children to play with if needed.
The courtyard is fully enclosed by the building.
Shade is provided by the building.

Nutrition:
Due to the limited hours of operation meals are not served but snacks are provided.
All food items were properly stored in sealed containers once the original packaging seal had been broken.
Good food service practices were in place with staff washing their hands and wearing food service gloves.
The center does maintain a calendar of snack items that are provided which does show a good variety of credible snack options.
Supervision was provided at the table.

Administration:
All required notices for No Smoking, License Certificate, Consultant Contact, and Mandatory Abuse Reporting were present. Other required postings for emergency evacuation, emergency contact numbers, handwashing, diapering, daily schedule, and program curriculum were also present.
All child files were reviewed and each contained all required documentation.
All staff files were reviewed and again were found to contain all required information.
Inspection logs and certificates were available and current for all required certifications. It is noted that the center does have a Radon mitigation system and it was reviewed that renewed testing is required every 2 years.
The parent handbook was reviewed and while the center did have all required written policies several do need to be expanded to ensure all required elements are present which included Health & Safety (handwashing, immunization notification, response plans), Incidendent Reporting (change in functioning, sexualized behavior), Curriculum, Staff Orientation & Training.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

None cited.

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

A list of all required written policies with suggestions for implementation was provided to Ashley.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended at this time. Please provide a written response to the licensing consultant identifying a plan of action to correct and maintain those aspects cited as not meeting licensing standards and identifying an anticipated date of compliance. At least one visit will be made to the center during the next year.

Date: 10/01/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Ray Salsbury

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**.