Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Loving Arms Children's Center

Provider No.: 27920

Address: 6270 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA, 50131

County: Polk

Director's Name: Heather Nelson

On-Site Supervisor: Interim Destiny Booth

Phone Number: 5152700150

E-Mail: Director@LovingArmsChildrensCenter.com

HHS Visit Date: 10/08/2026

Licensing Period: 10/01/2025 to 10/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/27/2025

Comments: Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Johnson-Grimes Municipal Fire Dept by FF Shawn Benberg.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	6:45 AM to 5:30 PM		
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	24	36	36	30	126
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was conducted 10-8-26. Prospective On-Site Supervisor Destiny Booth was present for the visit.

Loving Arms Children's Center opened in 2001. Heather Nelson became director in 2023. Heather had been in the director role since 2002 at another center. She has several years of child care experience. Destiny Booth is the prospective on-site supervisor.

The center provides care to children ages 6 weeks up to school age, Monday through Friday 6:45AM to 5:30PM; Monday through Friday. The school age program is only provided in the summer, not during the school year. The center is operated on one-half of a building connected to the church. There is a secure entrance to the center and the church has another entrance.

Loving Arms Children's Center uses lesson plans in the classrooms that center around themes for development with the One in Christ Curriculum. The center uses Pro-care as the application to communicate with parents. The center offers a good variety of toys and learning centers. The older children were content and resting while the visit occurred, while the infants were eating and having a diaper change.

There is an on-site kitchen and the center freshly prepares and offers breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack daily. Meals are prepared by a dedicated cook; and served family-style in the classrooms by staff. The center's menus are in-line with CACFP guidelines for healthy eating.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Playground--the playground is separated into ages and enclosed with chain link fencing. Surface is grass and shade is natural. Play structures have cushion safety surfacing of wood chips. The center is able to use the sanctuary in the adjoining church for large motor play when the weather does not allow the children to go outside.

Transportation/Field trips: The center does not provide transportation. Field trips are walking and take place in the summer.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

This center has attained Level I in IQ4K (Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®) is Iowa's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licensed Child Care Centers and preschools, registered Child Development Homes and programs operating under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. IQ4K® provides five levels of quality (building blocks) that programs can achieve and continue to improve upon).

The center participates in TEACH (TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce access to educational opportunities and is helping establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children.) and WAGE$ (Child Care WAGE$® Iowa (WAGE$) is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce, based on the individual's level of formal education and commitment to their program).

The center uses a positive behavior method for the children and several staff have PBIS training; along with monthly staff meetings.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a secure entrance and a camera system for the classrooms..

The center is able to offer health benefits to staff and a retirement package.

The center receives strong support from the Board of Directors and the church.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions.Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.

109.9(2)h: Signed and dated valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization, provided by the department must be on file for each child enrolled as required by Iowa Administrative Code 641—7.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

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.

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

109.7(1): All staff (within first three months of employment):Iowa's training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.At least one hour of training regarding universal precautions.Certification in First Aid infant, child, and adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Certification in infant, child, and adult first aid that uses a nationally recognized curriculum or is received from a nationally recognized training organization including the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or MEDIC First Aid or an equivalent certification approved by the Department. A valid certificate indicating the date of training and expiration date shall be maintained.Minimum health and safety trainings, (Essentials) approved by the Department. If significant changes occur to content, the Department may require the training be renewed.
--Three of the staff files reviewed did non contain completion certificates for CPR/First Aid, with two of the three staff being beyond the 90-day start date to have this completed. One staff was beyond the 90-day start date and did not have the completion certificates for essentials training
--The center director will need to get the staff schedule for CPR/First Aid as soon as possible
--The center director will ensure the staff have completed all trainings within the 90-day start time, including essentials.

109.9(1)b: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
--A staff file reviewed did not have a physical exam form on file and was outside the time frame of six month prior or after initial employment
--The center director will have the staff obtain documentation of a physical exam and place in file

109.9(1)c: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
--A staff file reviewed contained an expired certificate for mandatory child abuse training
--The center director will ensure the staff is updating mandatory trainings

109.9(2)h: Signed and dated valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization, provided by the department must be on file for each child enrolled as required by Iowa Administrative Code 641—7.
--A child file reviewed contained a history of possible immunizations, however this was not valid as not signed/dated and not in the recognized format
-The center director will approach the family for update information and place in the child's file

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.
--The center has a jack and jill restroom for two classrooms (207 and 208). This restroom has at least one non-working toilet that had been labeled out of order however the children had access to the toilet. The outlets in the restroom need to have child proof covers. The restroom is in need of repairs and deep cleaning, which the on-site supervisor could take place when the center closes to complete trainings and deep cleaning.
--There was aerosol air freshener in the programming area that was removed during the visit
--In the breezeway between the child care center programming space and the adjacent church, where the child care center utilizes to access the outdoor play area, is located a floor-board heater that was turned to maximum temperature. This is also the wall space utilized for boot storage, and a "hot rubber" smell was immediately detectable as the boots were left in contact with the heating element while in operation. The onsite supervisor and licensor removed the boots from the heating element during the visit. Discussion took place with regard to the children's access to the temperature regulation control on the baseboard heating element that the center will follow up to ensure children do not have ready access.

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full two year license is recommended..

Discussion took place regarding some repairs for the restroom between rooms 207 and 208, and also reminders for staff to ensure children, including infants and toddler are washing hands after using restroom or having a diaper change.

Radon testing is due every two years and the last test was completed in September on 2023. Radon levels at that time were below the 4.0 cutoff.

The furnace is inspected every fall, usually in October.

Date: 10/27/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV

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**.