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

Name of Center: Little Friends of Living Faith **Enrollment:** 98 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 28409

Street: 2180 NW 142nd St **City:** Clive Iowa **Zip** 50325 **County:** Polk

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

Director's Name: Sandy Nelson **Phone Number:** 515-556-5576

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amanda Wallace and Elizabeth Freeman **E-Mail:** sandy.littlefriends@gmail.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-13-2023

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

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 09-07-2023

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 06-08-2023

Comments : Clive Fire Marshal.

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 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	0	13	54	0	67
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 4

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 11-01-2023 to 11-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 10-13-2023

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A licensing visit was conducted on 10/13/23. 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. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Little Friends of Living Faith is located in the Living Faith Lutheran Church in Clive, IA. The center uses five classrooms within the church. 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 and Elizabeth Freeman. Both 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. The center utilizes the Wee Learn Curriculum and Learning Without Tears Curriculum in their teaching.

During the visit, children were observed getting their coats on to go outside to play on the playground, playing on the playground, engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them in classrooms, having large group time, and eating lunch. Staff were engaged in all child activities as well.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

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

The center is an IQ4K Level 4. 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".

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. Within the past year, the center also installed security cameras.

There is a good mix of tenured and new staff.

The center has an outdoor garden.

The center has been open for 20 years.

Enrollment remains steady.

The center uses the Pro - Care electronic system for families to sign in/out, etc.

The director stated she feels she has a really good staff and classroom teachers work well together.

A new addition is being built onto the building that will house the program tentatively starting in March 2024. There will be eight classrooms and more space.

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

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one child who had an expired epipen.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Radon testing was last tested 8/15/23 - 8/17/23. 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.

The annual furnace inspection was last completed 2/17/23.

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.

I-Power was discussed at the visit.

The most current monthly playground inspection form was emailed to the director after the visit concluded. This form should be used going forward.

The CACFP electronic application was discussed during the visit.

In March 2024, the program will tentatively move into their new space that will be a new addition to the existing building/church. There will be eight classrooms. A new fire marshal inspection will be needed prior to moving into this space. This consultant will also need the square footage of classrooms to determine capacity. This consultant has received an updated floor plan of this new space.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.