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

Name of Center: Lionheart Early Learning **Enrollment:** 116 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 52213

Street: 2717 Northgate DR **City:** Iowa City Iowa **Zip** 52245 **County:** Johnson

Mailing Address: 120 S LaSalle ST STE 1200, Chicago, IL, 60603

Director's Name: Emily Brandenburg **Phone Number:** 319-337-8870

On-Site Supervisor(s): Alex Daniels **E-Mail:** ebrandenburg@pecepmail.com adaniels@lionheartkids.net

Date(s) of Visit: 06-02-2025

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:** 06-03-2025

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

Date Inspected: 04-18-2023

Comments : Does comply.

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: X Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care X 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	52	43	40	36	171
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 08-01-2025 to 08-08-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Heidi Brown **Date:** 07-31-2025

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

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

This worker arrived at LIONHEART EARLY LEARNING - 52213 for an annual visit on 6/2/2025. The center is located inside a commercial building. There are 10 classrooms, a breakroom, a kitchen, storage spaces and an office. The center is for profit. The center's fire inspection was completed on 4/18/2023.

The director is Emily Brandenburg. She has a Bachelor's of Arts in Early Childhood Leadership. She started in 8/2015.

The on-site supervisor is Alex Daniels. She has a Bachelor's of Arts in Elementary Education with Endorsements in Early Childhood Special Education and Kindergarten/PreK. She started in 8/2015.

This worker observed all programming space in the center and outdoor area to ensure that the environment was safe, sanitary and hazard free.

This worker observed staff and children interactions including: children and staff engaged in developmentally appropriate activities, handwashing, diapering, lunch prep, outdoor play, etc.

Health and safety practices were also reviewed including handwashing, medication management, appropriate cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting, excluding ill children/staff, incident reports, and first aid kits. Safe sleep practices were observed.

The center has a playground area and monthly inspections were completed.

The center offers field trips for preschool children and older. They have gone to the library, Bloomsbury Farm, Wilson Apple's Orchard, etc.

The center serves the following: breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack.

Staff files, child files and the licensing notebook were reviewed.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

-The center was awarded accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission.
-The center has won Locals Love Us 2018-2025.
-The center has done an excellent job of maintaining staff.
-The center participates in TEACH and WAGES.
-The center works with Child Care Aware® of America to provide quality child care for military families.
-The center offers Tippy Toes, Sports Tortes and four additional enrichment programs through Premier.
-The center utilizes ProCare for parental communication and billing.

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

The center was in full compliance on the date of my visit.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based upon the annual visit, it is recommended that this center remain in full licensing status. The childcare consultant will conduct at least one unannounced visit each year.

It is imperative that the director has a full understanding of Iowa Code 109 and Comm. 204. They can be found by visiting: https://iowaccrr.org/providers/ccc/ under HHS Regulations. The director is strongly encouraged to work with their Child Care Resource and Referral Child Care Consultant and their Child Care Nurse Consultant.

Please do not hesitate to contact the licensing consultant, Heidi Brown, if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 515-631-8846 or heidi.brown@hhs.iowa.gov

*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.