Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Love Kids Child Care Center LLC

Provider No.: 47657

Address: 901 N 35th ST STE 2, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Pat Bridgeman

On-Site Supervisor:

Phone Number: 7122560181

E-Mail: jaytaybridgeman@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/05/2025

Licensing Period: 09/01/2025 to 09/01/2026

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 01/13/2022

Comments: Fire inspections are due every three years. Please have a fire inspection immediately and have the certificate sent to me if you haven't had one since 1/13/22.

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	8	8	3	1	20
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Love Kids Childcare on 9/5/25. The center is located at 901 N. 35th St, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501 which is located next to the office at Featherstone Apartments. The center opened on Monday, September 26, 2016. There are 14 children enrolled. The center provides child care for infant to preschool age children. Pat Bridgeman is the director and has over 20 years of working with children in a child care setting.

Observation of room:
The center is one room that is separated by portable walls. One side is for infants and the other side is for children two years and older. The rooms have age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The center is very colorful with educational items on the wall. There were five infants and two staff with the infants. During naptime, one staff member went on break. This makes the infant room out of ratio. The infant room must always be in ratio, even at naptime. They had daily sheets for the infants. Tay and the other staff member working with the infants had excellent interactions with the children. They were nurturing and positive. The toys are sanitized daily. If a child mouths a toy, it is set aside until it is sanitized. Pat was with the toddlers and preschoolers. The older children were playing outside when I initially arrived, but they came inside while I was meeting with Tay and observing the infant area. The children all washed their hands when they came inside from playing outdoors; however, they did not wash their hands immediately before lunch. After they came in from playing outside, they sat in a group and read a story. They then said their ABCs, practiced pointing out shapes and colors, and said a prayer. Pat had phenomenal interactions with the kids. The children were all very responsive to Pat. The children clearly love Pat and enjoy their time with her. They listened to Pat very well. The children then sat down for lunch. They did not wash their hands immediately before lunch. Children need to wash their hands immediately before eating or participating in any food service activity. After they were done eating, staff used wet-wipes to wash the children's hands. Wet-wipes are not sufficient to eliminate pathogens (bacteria and viruses) and should not be used as a sole source of handwashing. Lesson plans are needed. Pat had lesson plans but they were from August. Pat completed lesson plans for September, posted them, and emailed them to me on 9/8/25. Pat has worked with CCR&R in the past on a variety of topics. Information on ratio was emailed to Pat after my visit. Make sure you comply with the ratio/age of separation requirements. Please make sure handwashing signs are posted at every sink and diapering station. Please make sure there are diapering postings at the diapering stations.

Nutrition:
Proper food storage was not being used. After being opened, all food must be stored in an airtight container. There was a bag of sugar that was not sealed properly. The center isn't on the federal food program. Make sure you are in compliance with the with the CACFP food guidelines even if you aren't on the food program. A copy of a rotation of menus was posted. There were thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen but not in the refrigerator in the infant room. Please put a thermometer in the refrigerator/freezer in the infant room.

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Health and safety:
Pat reported the center follows medication management procedures when a child is prescribed medication - please review your procedures and medication log with the child care nurse consultant. The last radon testing was completed in October 2024 with a score of 1.5 pCi/L. Radon testing is required every five years if it is under 4.0 pCi/L. If there are fuel burning appliances you would need an annual fuel burning inspection. Pat agreed to talk to her landlord to see if she has fuel burning appliances as she was not sure. Pat obtained a carbon monoxide detector. Monthly fire/tornado drills were practiced and documented. The center did not have a list of emergency phone numbers. Please create a list of emergency phone numbers that must be visibly posted. Please post handwashing procedures at every sink and diapering procedures at every diapering station. Bleach/water is used for sanitizing and disinfecting and they had the 3-step bottle procedure 1. Soap/water for cleaning, 2. Water for rinsing and 3. Your EPA approved product for sanitizing and disinfecting. If you are using bleach/water please follow the mixing instructions for both sanitizing and disinfecting that are on your specific bottle of bleach or on the product website. Child Care Resource and Referral and the child care nurse consultant can assist with this. Don't set food items, or other non-diaper changing items, on the diaper changing table as this is considered cross contamination. There was a roll of toilet paper that was being used as tissues that was sitting on the diaper changing station in the infant area. Tay removed this as soon as it was pointed out to her. A no smoking sign was not posted. This was corrected as Pat posted this and emailed me a photo of this.

Playground:
There is a small, fenced playground at the back of the center with a small piece of equipment. Please refer to the Handbook for Public Playground Safety for information on surfacing, fall zones, and appropriate equipment. Monthly playground inspections are being completed and documented.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services; however, they do have a van they use for field trips. There was no vehicle maintenance log. I provided Pat with a copy of a monthly vehicle maintenance log for her to begin using. Vehicles that are owned or leased by the center shall receive regular maintenance and inspection according to manufacturer-recommended guidelines for vehicle and tire maintenance and inspection.

Administrative records:
Three staff files, including Pat's and Tay's, were read and all were in excellent order. They all had the necessary training. Three children's files were read and were incomplete, although they were in much better condition than last year. The only thing missing in all three files was the permission slip for the center to obtain emergency care. Shirley with CCR&R provided Pat with a copy of this form for her to have the parents fill out. Please make a current copy of the Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures which was revised in July 2025. Please read and understand the handbook.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Pat is always pleasant and willing to work with Child Care Resource and Referral on noncompliance areas. Pat and Tay have excellent interactions with the children. They are nurturing and positive. Pat and Tay made significant improvements over last year. They will continue to work with CCR&R on a monthly basis to make sure they stay on top of everything that they worked so hard to accomplish over the last year.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.8(2): Ratio maintained in center as required: Brief absence of staff person permitted for 5 or less minutes when another staff person is present. At least one staff is present in every room where children are resting. If ratio reduced to one staff per room during nap time, does not exceed one hour and ratio in center is still maintained. Ratio in infant rooms is always maintained. When more than eight children are present on the licensed premises, at least two staff members shall be present. For a period of two hours or less at the beginning and end of the center's hours of operation, one staff member may care for eight or fewer children, provided no more than four of the children are under two years of age and there are no more than eight children in the center. Ratio exceeded for school-age children when school classes unexpectedly start late, are dismissed early, or cancelled. For no more than four hours, care is limited to children already in the program and licensed capacity is not exceeded. Ratio must be maintained at all times in the infant room. Ratio must be maintained even during naptime.

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109.9(2)d: All files contain sufficient information and authorization to allow the center to secure emergency medical and dental services at any time child is in center's care. The center did not have a form completed that allows the center to secure emergency medical or dental services. Shirley with CCR&R provided Pat with a copy of a form that can be used to rectify this.

109.10(6): Children's hand washing: Center shall ensure staff assist children in personal hygiene. The children did not wash their hands immediately prior to eating lunch. Wet-wipes were used to wash the hands after eating lunch. Children must wash their hand immediately prior to eating or handling food. Wet-wipes are not sufficient to wash children's hands.

109.11(6): Telephone: Working phone with posting adjacent for emergency numbers for police, fire, and poison control center. Center street address and phone included in posting. List of emergency numbers for children kept near phone. A list of emergency phone numbers must be posted near the phone.

109.12(1): Program structure that uses developmentally appropriate practices and written program of activities planned to the developmental needs of children served. Program complements but does not duplicate school curriculum. Schedule of program is posted in a place visible to parents. Lesson plans should be posted. There were no current lesson plans posted on the date I was at the center. The lesson plans that were posted were for the month prior. Pat has since corrected this and has current lesson plans posted. CORRECTED

109.13(5): Centers shall ensure that food preparation and storage procedures are consistent with the recommendations of the CACFPs. There was a bag of sugar that was open and was not sealed properly. Once food is opened, it must be stored in a sealed, airtight container.

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

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 9/1/25 to 9/1/26

Pat will continue to work with Child Care Resource and Referral on a monthly basis.

Love Kids Child Care LLC is your business and you must be confident as the director. You must learn and be able to practice the Iowa DHHS child care rules/regulations. I am recommending that the director/owners of Love Kids Childcare read and learn the DHHS Child Care Centers and Preschools Licensing Standards and Procedures. The most recent is from July 2025. It is vital that you and your staff are knowledgeable of the Iowa rules and regulations. When the director is away from the center, the person left in charge must be aware of the DHHS rules.

Fire inspection reports are required every three years. The last one I have for your center is dated 1/13/22. If you have an approved fire inspection report after 1/13/22, please email me a copy. If not, you will need a new approved fire inspection immediately.

Date: 09/23/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

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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**.