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: Paige Crowley

Phone Number: 5152700150

E-Mail: Director@LovingArmsChildrensCenter.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/09/2025

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:

- [ ] 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
- [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 took place 9-9-25.. Present for the visit was the director and assistant director at points during the visit as on this day teacher staffing necessitated both the director and assistant director to be in the classrooms.

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. Paige Crowley started as assistant director Sept 2024. She has an associates degree in early childhood education and several CEU's along with a CDA. Paige has several years of child care experience. Both met criteria qualification for their positions.

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. Teachers were engaged with the children, during this visit either providing close supervision for a rest period or in the infant room, attending to individuals needs. The children were content.

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.

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

Loving Arms Children's center has submitted an application to be approved for 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 on).

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.
*one staff filed reviewed revealed the need for the staff to complete Essentials training. The director indicated that the teacher has since begun the completion of the Essentials required 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. *There was one child file reviewed that contained some immunization information; however was not on the required Certificate Of Immunization

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

N/A.

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A new full two year license is recommended.

Discussion took place regarding a flooring article that had been laundered and bunched up significantly; potentially creating a safety concern for infants placed upon this floor article. The director indicated that a new flooring article that did not bunch (thereby) reducing suffocation risk was ordered and will be placed in the infant room. The director indicated that the old flooring article that bunched up was removed the day of the annual visit.

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.

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The furnace is inspected every fall, usually in October.

Date: 09/17/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson

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**.