Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: The Arc of East Central Iowa-Summer Day

Provider No.: 35711

Address: 509 3rd St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401

County: Linn

Director's Name: Lauren Brandt

On-Site Supervisor: Katie Goedken Fennell

Phone Number: 3193650487

E-Mail:

HHS Visit Date: 06/22/2026

Licensing Period: 07/01/2025 to 07/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 04/10/2026

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday			7:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Tuesday			7:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Wednesday			7:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Thursday			7:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Friday			7:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			5	55	60
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

The Arc of East Central Iowa (ECI) is a non-profit program that has been in operation for many years. The inclusive program provides support needs for those children who have developmental and physical disabilities. The Arc of ECI operates the following two licensed childcare programs in the community: The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI -Summer Day. This license visit and report specifically pertain to The Arc of ECI - Summer Day which operates summer only. During summer 2026, The Arc ECI - Summer Day relocated to St. Andrew Lutheran Church. The program operates 6/15/2026-8/7/2026, M-F, 7:00am-5:30pm. Total enrolled and attending participants were reported to be 60 on 6/22/2026.

Multi-site director of The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI -Summer Day is Lauren Brandt. Ms. Brandt has qualified for the director role since December of 2025. Ms. Brandt has an AA degree in Human Services, has experience working with children and participates in professional development. The specific on-site supervisor (OSS) for The Arc of ECI - Summer Day is reported to be Katie Goedken Fennell.

On 6/22/2026, program space was observed. Since the last review, this program relocated from Veritas Church to St. Andrew Lutheran Church located at 4420 Center Point Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Primary programming occurs in several rooms designated by age. Sufficient restrooms including hand washing sinks are available to accommodate total capacity. The program has some access to an outdoor play area. A food storage area is organized and sanitary. On 6/22/2026, an array of materials and activities (e.g. crafts, puzzles, games, building items) were available including making slime. Staff provided a companionable presence allowing those present to have many choices in the day's experiences. Routine transitions (e.g. clean-up, restroom and drink breaks) worked smoothly into the program's welcoming and cooperative play environment. On 6/23/2026, ratio was observed. Staff were found to be utilizing positive behavior

interventions when needed and engaged in programming with those in attendance. Participants appeared comfortable with staff and to be enjoying the day.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The mission of Arc of ECI "...empowers individuals with disabilities and their families to engage in lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work, play, and advocate with full dignity and inclusion in their communities..."

The Arc of ECI has the following website for families and the community to learn more about their programs and services: https://arceci.org/. The program also sponsors a social media site.

Since the last review, there has been a change in management which includes a new multi-site director and reported new OSS. The new management (e.g. Ms. Brandt, Ms. Goedken Fennell, board, administrative persons) team is working to familiarize themselves with licensing rules, licensing guidelines and their own program's policies and procedures. The management team is working to establish systems of organization in place to help ensure administrative items are completed as required and maintained in a secure manner.

On 6/22/2026, The Arc of ECI - Summer Day was found to be maintaining required postings, maintaining a family-program information area, utilizing technological communication resources, and offering family-community programming activities. Family-community events have and do include Touch-A-Truck, softball games at the park, summer in the square concert, Art Without Limit: Celebration Gala and upcoming Curl Jam Event. The Arc of ECI curriculum includes staff inspired ideas, on-site guest speaker events, off-site field trip adventures (e.g. Palo Beach, local library, splash pads, Wicki Up Hill, Greene Square Park Recreation events, bowling, mini golf, DQ, Magic Show experience), neighborhood walks, outdoor learning, scavenger hunts, large gross motor individual and group activities, sensory enjoyment, enrichment opportunities, and cooking experiences.

The Arc of ECI continues to have and update as needed policies and procedures that include those for safety, daily health checks, hand washing, diapering, cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Cleaning reminders were observed in various areas. Management discussed how their team of staff continue to help ensure the children's space is sanitary and hazard free each day by following the policies and procedures. Management acknowledged how their program operates under a board of directors. Management further acknowledged how the Arc of ECI board, the Arc of ECI administrative team, St. Andrew's church board, and St. Andrew's administration help ensure the program areas are sanitary and hazard free each day.

The Arc of ECI - Daycare Enrichment and The Arc of ECI -Summer Day continue to have emergency plans, policies, and procedures in place which are annually reviewed and updated as needed. These programs have successfully navigated through flooding events (2008 historic Linn County flood), 2019 winter Polar Vortex, 2019 health (covid-19) pandemic, 8/10/20 Derecho Storm, 2021 food supply issues, incidents of relocation, repeated technology outages (7/19/24 global technology outage, 10/10/2025 AWS outage, 10/29/2025 Microsoft outage) and repeated air quality alerts (2023, 2025, 2026).

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

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

109.11(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.
- On 6/22/2026. licensing observed the temperature in some areas of the program space to be extremely warm and participants to be perspiring. Licensing and management reviewed rules related to having sufficient cooling in all program areas. Licensing and management talked about how the rooms that are not able to be sufficiently cooled will need to close. Management reported the church was aware the air conditioning was not properly working is some areas and that the air

conditioning was scheduled to be fixed the following day.
- On 7/7/2026, licensing returned to the program due to receiving a concern regarding the temperature of some program rooms. Licensing again observed the temperature in some areas of the program to be extremely warm. Information gathered indicated the air conditioning had not been fixed the day after 6/22/2026.
- On 7/10/2026, church administrator Lori Krueger reported she could not provide a timeframe for when the air conditioning would be properly functioning in all program areas. The Arc of ECI Director of Children and Families Services Whitney Alber, The Arc of ECI Daycare and Group Respite Program Supervisor Amanda Zahn, and The Arc of ECI multi-site childcare director Ms. Brandt indicated they would immediately switch participant program areas with administrative areas, so that all space being used by enrolled participants is properly cooled. Management reported they would notify licensing via email when the air conditioning in the building is fully working in all areas (which would now be the program's administrative office space).

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

Upon arrival to the program on 6/22/2026, licensing observed one participant unattended in the administrative office. Ensure no enrolled participant is unattended in the administrative area or any other area of the building.

Please review rule 109.6(2) which states "...The on-site supervisor is required to be present when the program has multiple sites or when a director is not routinely present for six hours daily..." Ms. Goedken Fennell is not currently approved for the OSS role in ipower. Ms. Goedken Fennell is listed as assistant director in ipower. Ms. Goedken Fennell shall update her ipower profile ensuring all education, experience and training is current. She shall then request the OSS role in ipower.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management
Licensing discussed with management the oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) understand expectations, 2) manage frustrations, and 3) monitor performance. Management acknowledged how their entire team of staff completed Mandt Training and training on de-escalation strategies. Management discussed how staff have access to walk-talkies to ask for assistance or a break when needed. Management talked about being present in the areas with participants and staff in order to provide feedback and encourage good staff practices. Management also voiced having a really great team of staff who know their participants well which makes it easier to de-escalate.

The program's license remains in full status. Thank you for the visit

Date: 07/29/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Amy Lyons

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**.