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

Name of Center: Loving Arms Children's Center **Enrollment:** 46 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27920

Street: 6270 Merle Hay Rd **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 6270 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Heather Burgett **Phone Number:** 515-270-0150

On-Site Supervisor(s): Paige Crowley **E-Mail:** Director@LovingArmsChildrensCenter.com

Date(s) of Visit: 10-02-2024

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 08-23-2019

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

Date Inspected: 10-06-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years.

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 X Other NA

Program Serves: X Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age X 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	24	36	36	30	126
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 10-01-2023 to 10-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 10-10-2024

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An unannounced off year visit was completed 10-2-24. Present for the visit was the director and assistant director.

Loving Arms Children's Center opened in 2001. Heather Burgett became interim direct 8/2023 and will begin as director soon. Heather has 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.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations: The 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 centers/activities were stored in an organized fashion for the rest period, containing a variety of age/developmentally appropriate centers/activities. The center uses soapy water and industrial hydrogen peroxide for cleaning/sanitation. Staff were in ratio and maintained good structure in the rooms.

Nutrition Practices: There is an on-site kitchen that is shared with the church and located on the lower level of the church. Meals are prepared by a dedicated cook; and served family-style in the classrooms by staff. The center is not on a food program and does follow CACFP guidelines on their menus. The menu is rotated every 5 weeks. The kitchen, dry storage and refrigeration were clean/organized.

Health and Safety: When Medications are needed; they are stored in the assistant director's office, secured. This center was observed to have children with strong allergies to foods; Allergies were posted in the rooms-under a cover marked "ALLERGIES", where only staff would be able to view the children's names/emergency actions needed etc. First aid kits are in each room; there is an extended supply/emergency kit available in a rolling bin and kept secured. Tornado and Fire escape plans are posted. Drills are documented to have been completed monthly aside from Tornado drill in Sept 2024. Radon testing occurred 9/2023, all rooms tested below 4.0 cutoff. The heating/cooling systems are maintained by the church and checked each October. There are carbon monoxide detectors in the halls adjacent to classrooms.

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. Playground checks were documented to have occurred monthly. There were not obvious safety concerns with the playground.

Transportation/Field trips: The center does not provide transportation. Field trips are walking and take place in the summer.

Administrative Review: Information for mandatory reporter, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado emergency plans, and non-smoking signs is posted. Six child files were reviewed and all needed emergency dentist information; and two of the files needed an annual updated--The director indicated they are working to update the files this month. Five staff files were reviewed; one needed an updated SING (Iowa background check); two employees are awaiting CPR/1st Aide training and two staff needed to provide physical forms. The Director indicated that one staff has a physical set up for the following few days.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

The center uses a positive behavior method for the children and several staff have PBIS traning.

The center has a Facebook page and a website.

The center has a good working relationship with the church.

The center has a secure entrance. .

The center has camera system for the classrooms and these camera record. .

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.

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

109.6(6)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs.

109.9(1)d: All files contain a pre-employment physical exam report completed within six months prior to hire and at least every three years. Physical exams shall be documented on form 470-5152, Child Care Provider Physical Examination Report.
Number not in compliance: 2

109.9(1)e: All files contain documentation to indicate that ongoing staff training requirements are met, including current certifications in first aid/CPR and mandatory child abuse training.
Number not in compliance: 1

109.9(2): All files are updated at least annually and when a change occurs. The director stated the center was working to update files this month.

109.9(2)b: 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.
Number not in compliance for dental: 6

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.

The furnace is inspected every fall, in October.

Staff was observed to be responsive and involved with the children's activities, providing nurturing responses.

This program is considering expanding to provide school-age summer care; in rooms 306/308 which was observed. The

director indicated that an updated fire inspection and floor plan and application would be provided if the program chooses to add this to programming space. Both rooms has ready access to restrooms, emergency exits etc.

*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.